■ Entertainment / A2-1
Lani Mercado to Jolo: You have to marry Grace if you have 2nd baby

■ News / A2
Hacienda Luisita workers union defies DOLE order

■ Lifestyle / C1
Want a piece of Camelot? Items from Kennedy homes up for auction

■ World / A10
US advised to disallow sale of anticholesterol drug over the counter

JOB Market
Shall we book you for an interview now?

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Sunday
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Sunday, January 16, 2005 ★★ 90 pages / 11 sections / Vol. 20 / No. 39 P18

Guyito smiles on ex-Air Force man down on luck

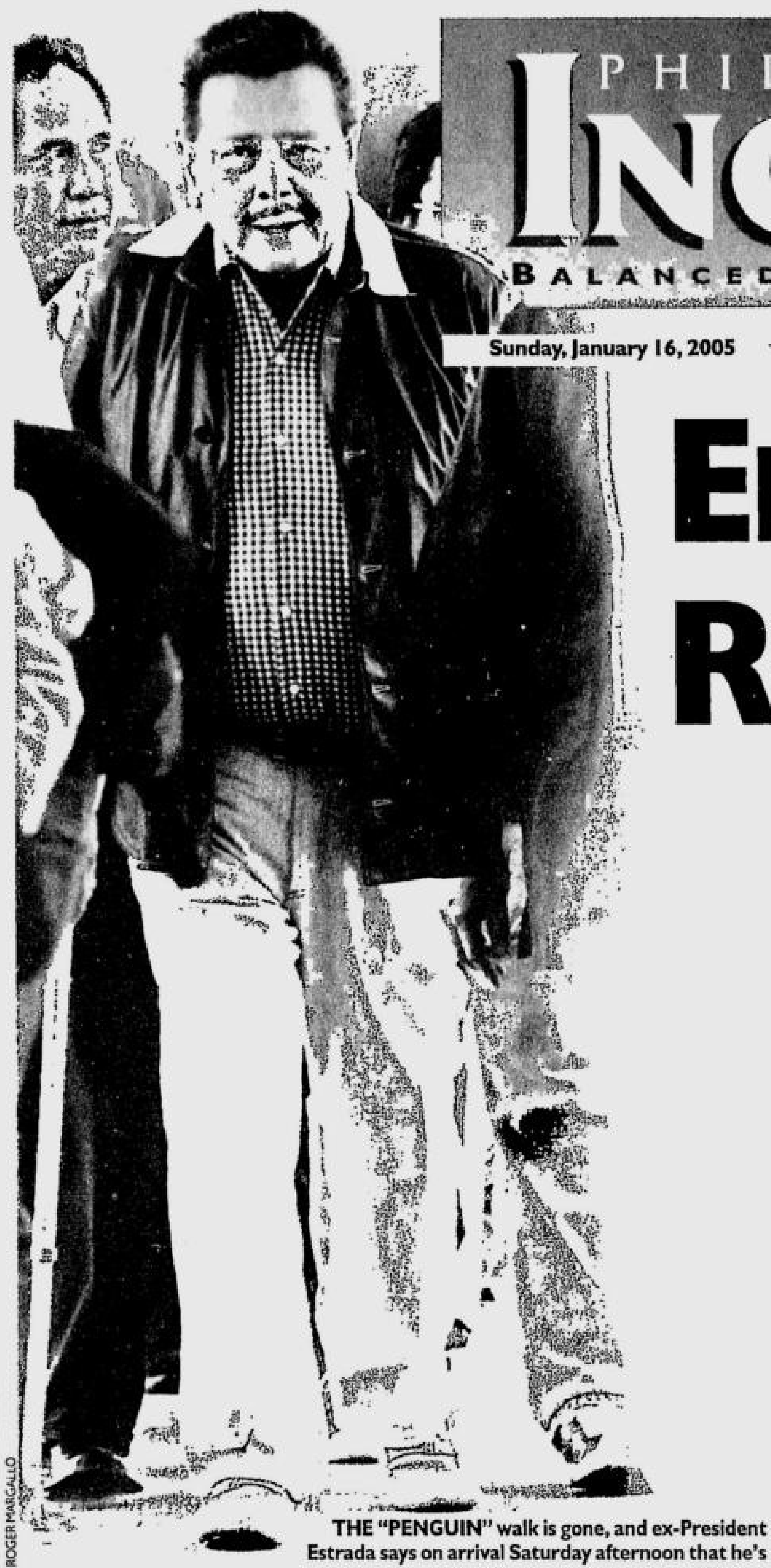
By D.J. Yap
PDI Research

IT WOULD be quite easy to give in to despair when one is 30, penniless and in jail. But Manuel Galan just gritted his teeth, kept his hopes up and held on, knowing his luck would change.

GUYITO/ A22

Erap vows to lead RP to 'new dawn'

Slams corruption in Arroyo gov't



ROGER MARGALLO

THE "PENGUIN" walk is gone, and ex-President Estrada says on arrival Saturday afternoon that he's taking "firm steps for a purpose the good Lord has set for me and our country." He pledges to walk the straight and narrow to "unite the Filipino people."

By Fe Zamora, Luige A. del Puerto and Armand N. Nocum

HE HAS returned—without the penguin waddle.

Former President Joseph Estrada arrived yesterday after a 19-day trip to Hong Kong, looking fit and hale enough as he walked through the 40-meter airport lobby in under one minute on a new pair of knees.

With the limp gone, he walked with sure, steady steps.

"*Pasasalamat* (I am thankful)," was all Estrada could say when asked for an arrival message.

But in a written statement distributed by his media staff and in a brief talk with reporters outside his villa in Tanay, Rizal, Estrada showed he was back in fighting form.

He shot down talk of a destabilization plot, branded the Arroyo administration corrupt and an international pariah, and pledged to lead the country to "a new dawn."

He also promised to heal the social divisions renting the country.

The man for whom the government had declared a red alert and placed thousands of policemen on the streets as a security precaution could not figure out what the security and media fuss was all about.

Interviewed at a VIP lounge at the Hong Kong International Airport before he left for Manila, Estrada said he could not understand why the government put up elaborate security measures for his return.

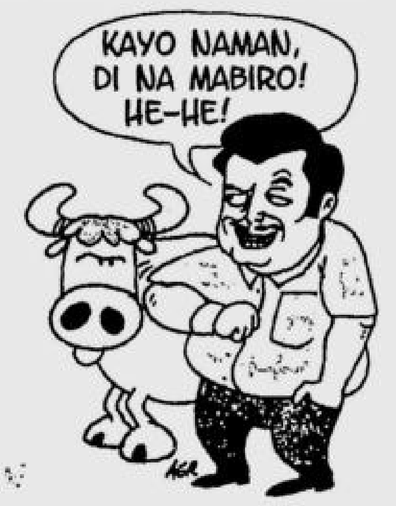
"*Sala sa init, sala sa lamig* (They can't do anything right)," he said, describing the government's alleged paranoia about his Hong Kong trip.

At first, he said, his critics suspected he would flee to China to avoid his plunder trial at home, and now that he was coming home they were accusing him of hatching plots to undermine the government.

"I don't know what to do anymore," he said.

In his arrival statement, Estrada said he returned as he had promised when he left on Dec. 27 "more determined than ever to restore the hope that has been lost, to fight for a better future, uphold the Constitution and restore the rule of law."

ERAP/ A6


KAYO NAMAN, DI NA MABIRO! HE-HE!
AGR

Joke, joke joke, Erap tells Inquirer

By Armand N. Nocum and Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

JOKE, joke, joke.

Ousted President Estrada yesterday clarified that he was only kidding when he said that the INQUIRER could be the next target of attacks by alleged supporters of the late actor Fernando Poe Jr.

"We were just joking. You know we always exchange jokes during our talks," Estrada told the INQUIRER yesterday during a brief chat at the VIP lounge of Philippine Airlines at the Hong Kong International Airport.

JOKE/ A6

Nida lawyer seeks new probe of ex-general

By Luige A. del Puerto

WITH witness Andrada Dalandas placing suspect Philip Medel at the scene of the Nida Blanca murder, the Blanca family's lawyer has asked for an investigation into Medel's alleged links to a former chief of military intelligence whose name had consistently surfaced in the investigation of the actress' murder.

Lawyer Harriet Demetriou said that with Medel being identified by the witness, there was now a need to pursue the possible involvement of the retired brigadier general, Galileo Kintanar, in Blanca's Nov. 7, 2001 murder.

Kintanar's name first came up during the murder investigation when it was found that Medel, who was identified by Dalandas as one of four men that she saw taking Blanca out of a van at the Atlanta Centre on the night of the murder, had been staying at Kintanar's rented apartment in Quezon City.

Demetriou said the justice department should follow up on the "declarations" of the former employees of Kintanar, a former chief of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp), who had all been linked to the murder.

The employees referred to were retired Army Maj. Pedro Pates Jr., Leonilo Gonzaga, Rogelio Salutin and Alfredo "Aldo" Rodriguez.

"These are all people of Kintanar," said Demetriou.

Kintanar, who has repeatedly denied any involvement in the murder, yesterday refused to comment on Demetriou's statements. He said he would wait for the summons from the National Bureau of Investigation.

NIDA/ A22

Hundred Islands to woo tourists with a 'wow'

By Volt Contreras

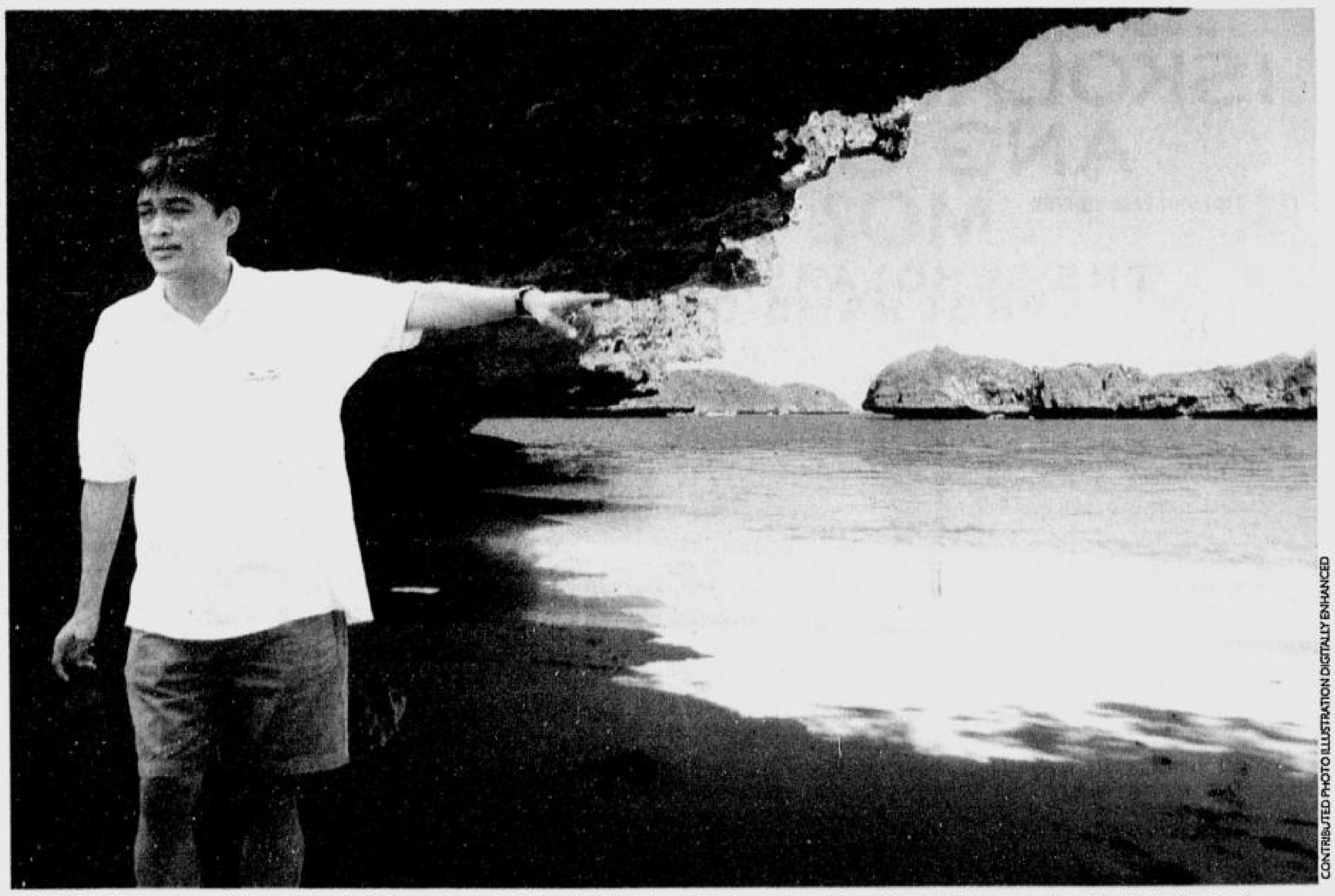
HUNDRED Islands, Pangasinan—As the tourism industry gears itself up to absorb the unexpected surge of foreigners skipping the tsunami-wrecked resorts of South Asia, the trend could well favor efforts to re-introduce leisure travelers to this scenic cluster of islands off Alaminos City in Pangasinan province.

Local officials here are working very hard to add the "wow" factor to the attractions of the Hundred Islands, this region's main tourism draw, in a bid to bounce back from years of falling tourist arrivals.

Imagine these islets getting connected and more explorable by foot. What about spending the night not in beach cottages but in floating houses. Or do your food-tripping and souvenir-shopping not on land but on calm waters, the goods being hawked from boats.

According to Alaminos Mayor Hernani Braganza, these are just some of the coming attractions that will complement the natural beauty of this cluster of uninhabited rocky outcrops dotting Lingayen Gulf and facing the South China Sea.

HUNDRED/ A22



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO ILLUSTRATION DIGITALLY ENHANCED

MAN BEHIND the plans to "sex up" the 1,800-hectare Hundred Islands off Alaminos City, Pangasinan, Mayor Hernani Braganza talks of floating bridges and vacation cottages, of shopping on boats and of repositioning the islands as a marine theme park to relaunch the former premiere sand-and-sea destination in Luzon.

Second FrontPage

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northern Luzon and eastern sections of Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: M. TOLOSA, PDI RESEARCH/01/16/05

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Luisita workers defy DOLE

By Jo Martinez-Clemente
PDI Central Luzon Desk

TARLAC CITY—For the second time since November last year, striking workers of the Central Azucarera de Tarlac at the Cojuangco family-owned Hacienda Luisita here have defied a return-to-work order issued by Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas and vowed to continue with their strike.

The striking workers said they will not return to work without their union leaders whom Sto. Tomas had ordered dismissed.

On Friday, Sto. Tomas declared the strike which began Nov. 6 illegal and dismissed 35 officers of the Central Azucarera de Tarlac Labor Union (Catlu) who had led it.

The workers also rejected Sto. Tomas' decision which she had hoped would settle the deadlock in the collective bargaining negotiations between the striking workers and management.

Sto. Tomas, who assumed jurisdiction over the labor dispute on Nov. 10, ordered the CAT management on Friday to grant a P15 wage increase to the workers retroactive to July 1, 2004. The amount was P85 less than the P100 the workers were bargaining for and P2.50 more than management's offer.

She also ordered management to give each CAT employee a P12,500 signing bonus, an amount which was P500 more than the CAT management's offer but lower than the P30,000 lump sum the workers had sought.

Ricardo Ramos, Catlu president, said Sto. Tomas' decision was expected.

Ramos, however, warned that far from bringing order to CAT, Sto. Tomas' decision would further foment unrest among the workers.

"Her order is not the solution to the labor problem. She is infuriating the workers; she's sowing anarchy. We will stay and go on with the strike," Ramos said.

He chided Sto. Tomas for what he described as a "trick" she was playing on the workers.

"It's a trick. She is giving the workers candy, asking them to go back to work but (at the same time) dismissing the union officers who had been bargaining for the entire work force. If the strike is illegal, why did she not remove ordinary union members [but] targeted only union officials," Ramos asked.

"What guarantee would the workers have that they would not be retrenched after they returned to work?" he added.

In a separate interview, lawyer Nenita Mahinay, Catlu counsel, said they would file a motion for reconsideration before the Department of Labor and Employment and elevate the case to the Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court, if the need arose.

"Removing the 35 officers of the union is tantamount to curtailing the union," she said.

In Lucena City, Anakpawis party-list Rep. Rafael Mariano blasted Sto. Tomas' order declaring the CAT labor union's strike illegal, saying the decision would only trigger another bloodbath at Hacienda Luisita.

The picket at Hacienda Luisita turned violent on Nov. 16 last year after striking workers clashed with police and military personnel who had tried to disperse the picket lines.

Seven people were killed and scores were injured during the violence.

Mariano doubted the striking workers would lift their strike, saying the strikers would never turn their backs against the United Luisita Workers Union, which maintain the picket lines.

For Mariano, Sto. Tomas' order did not resolve the dispute at Luisita but instead upheld the management's position to kick out CAT union leaders and grant a measly P15 wage hike.

"It is obvious that the DOLE acted as an apparatus by the Cojuangco family in union-busting," the lawmaker said.

He noted that aside from being an open disregard of the justness and legitimacy of the farm workers' demands, Sto. Tomas' action was no less than a blatant attempt to divide the ranks of the striking workers. *With a report from Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Miriam files bill vs publicity-hungry politicians

By Michael Lim Ubac

NO CREDIT-GRABBING, please.

After earlier condemning the proliferation of giant billboards along Metro Manila's thoroughfares, Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago now wants the names of government officials and politicians expunged from all public works signages.

Santiago filed this week Senate Bill No. 1668 which seeks to prohibit public officials from putting their names or images on signages announcing the construction, maintenance or rehabilitation of public works projects.

"This highly unethical practice of claiming personal credit where it is not due must end," Santiago said. "Attributing a public works project to just one particular personality is a gross public misinformation campaign that must be condemned and stopped."

Once the bill, otherwise known as the Anti-Signage of Public Works Act, is enacted into law, violators will face imprisonment of not less than six months but not more than one year, and perpetual disqualification from public office.

Santiago said the bill had been referred to the Senate committee on public works chaired by Sen. Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr.

The first Senate committee hearing on the bill is set on Jan. 24. Santiago also asked Rep. Mat Defensor to sponsor a similar measure in the Lower House.

Santiago noted that congressmen and local executives had a penchant for claiming credit for every imaginable government project such as classrooms, roads, basketball courts and even waiting sheds and tree-planting drives.

"Such a system fosters and promotes a culture of political patronage and corruption, and diminishes the importance that the public needs to place on supporting government officials, not because of their popularity, but because of their essential role in policy determination, whether on the local or national level," said the senator-lawyer.

The bill will not spare President Macapagal-Arroyo.

In the runup to the May 2004 elections, Ms Arroyo was severely criticized by the opposition for putting her name and image on big and conspicuous signs on her road projects in violation of election laws.

If Santiago would have her way, she wants the Filipinos' "aesthetic and ethical sensibilities" no longer assaulted by gigantic signages proclaiming: "The construction of this bridge is a project of Congressman So-and-so."

She wants the Department of Public Works and Highways, in coordination with the Department of Interior and Local Government and the Metro Manila Development Authority, to promptly remove all existing signages that obliterate the nation's urban and rural landscapes.

The feisty senator explained that this practice created the erroneous perception that a particular public official, and not the entire government, was the one responsible for the construction of a public works project.

"Worse, it deceives the public into thinking that they have to continue supporting a particular public official to continue receiving public services which, in the first place, they had the right to receive."

Solons set to declare Baguio City disease-free

By Michael Lim Ubac

TWO SENATORS are set to file a resolution declaring Baguio City free of meningococcemia.

Senators Richard Gordon and Jamby Madrigal said in separate interviews that the filing of the resolution in the Senate appeared to be in order since the Department of Health had not reported any new cases of meningo in the city in the last 10 days. *(See related story, Page A17)*

"There is no meningococcemia outbreak as repeatedly declared by the DOH. Let's put a stop to the wrong messages sent abroad regarding the Philippines' summer capital," Gordon said.

Madrigal, who personally visited the city on Friday, called on "all Filipinos and even foreign tourists to come to Baguio and not be afraid of meningococcemia."

"The DOH said this is a good sign that the city's drive against the disease was successful," Madrigal said, of the observation that the disease had been contained.

Commending the city government for a job well done, she added: "I just hope the tourism industry in Baguio City will remain strong, especially since summer is fast approaching. I appeal to everyone to visit Baguio to see how the local government is exerting all efforts to keep the city meningo-free."

Accompanied by local executives, Madrigal made the rounds of the city's public market to prove that the summer capital was free of the dreaded disease.

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2nd to 61st Placers - Outlay of ₱171,000 for each of the sixty (60) scholars to cover tuition and other basic miscellaneous school fees throughout the course in any of the four- or five-year programs requiring board exams offered at the TIP ....₱10,260,000.00

Total ....₱10,531,000.00

NOW IN ITS 9TH YEAR
THE GOV. DEMETRIO QUIRINO, SR. SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS
₱7.55 MILLION WORTH OF STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IN THE ACCOUNTANCY PROGRAM AT TIP MANILA

Bona fide public or private fourth year high school students with 83% or above third grading period general average or grade in Math IV, Science IV, or English IV qualify for the competitive examinations for the following grants:

1st Placer - Outlay of ₱60,000.00 to cover forty (40) monthly stipends of ₱1,500.00 per month through four (4) school years for board and lodging, books, transportation and other basic miscellaneous expenses, plus an outlay of ₱125,400.00 to cover tuition and other basic miscellaneous fees throughout the Accountancy program at TIP Manila........₱185,400.00

2nd to 51st Placers - Outlay of ₱125,400.00 for each of the fifty (50) scholars to cover tuition and other basic miscellaneous school fees throughout the Accountancy program at TIP Manila ....₱6,270,000.00

52nd to 131st Placers - Outlay of ₱13,630.00 for each of the eighty (80) scholars to cover tuition and other basic miscellaneous school fees for one (1) semester in the Accountancy program at TIP Manila ....₱1,090,400.00

Total........₱7,545,800.00

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Bona fide public or private fourth year high school students with 80% or above third grading period general average or grade in Math IV, Science IV, or English IV qualify for the competitive examinations for the following grants:

1st Placer - Outlay of ₱50,000.00 to cover fifty (50) monthly stipends of ₱1,000.00 per month through five (5) school years, plus an outlay of ₱171,000.00 to cover tuition and other basic miscellaneous fees throughout the Architecture program or in any four- or five-year Engineering program requiring board examinations offered at the TIP P221,000.00

2nd to 41st Placers - Outlay of ₱171,000.00 for each of the forty (40) scholars to cover tuition and other basic miscellaneous school fees throughout the Architecture program or in any four- or five-year Engineering program requiring board examinations offered at the TIP ....₱6,840,000.00

42nd to 101st Placers - Outlay of ₱13,500.00 for each of the sixty (60) scholars to cover tuition and other basic miscellaneous school fees for one (1) semester in Architecture or in any four- or five-year Engineering program requiring board examinations offered at the TIP ....₱810,000.00

Total ....₱7,871,000.00

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APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:
■ Form 138 (High School Card) or
certified copy with grades up to 3rd Grading Period
■ 2 copies of 2" x 2" ID Picture

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION:
■ Pres. Elpidio Quirino Friday, March 4, 2005
■ Gov. Demetrio Quirino, Sr. Friday, March 11, 2005
■ Sec. Guillermo De Vega Friday, March 18, 2005

SCHEDULE OF EXAMINATIONS:
■ Pres. Elpidio Quirino Saturday, March 5, 2005
■ Gov. Demetrio Quirino, Sr. Saturday, March 12, 2005
■ Sec. Guillermo De Vega Saturday, March 19, 2005

■ TIME AND PLACE OF EXAMINATIONS:
9:00-11:00 AM, TIP MANILA AND TIP QUEZON CITY

OTHER ENTRANCE SCHOLARSHIPS AND DISCOUNTS

	CATEGORY	GRANTS	PERIOD COVERED
1.	HONOR STUDENTS		
1.1	Valedictorian	Free Tuition and Basic Miscellaneous Fees	2 Semesters
		₱1,000.00 Stipend per Semester	2 Semesters
1.2	Salutatorian	Free Tuition and Basic Miscellaneous Fees	2 Semesters
		₱1,000.00 Stipend per Semester	1 Semester
1.3	3rd-10th Ranking High School Graduate	Free Tuition and Basic Miscellaneous Fees	1 Semester
2.	OTHER DISCOUNTS BASED ON GENERAL AVERAGE IN 4TH YEAR HIGH SCHOOL OR FINAL GRADE IN MATH IV, ENGLISH IV, OR SCIENCE IV		
2.1	90% or above	Free Tuition and Basic Miscellaneous Fees	1 Semester
2.2	85% - 89%	Free Tuition Fee	1 Semester
2.3	83% - 84%	80% Discount on Tuition Fee	1 Semester
2.4	81% - 82%	60% Discount on Tuition Fee	1 Semester
2.5	80%	50% Discount on Tuition Fee	1 Semester

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Roco: Advice on Naia 3, not coco levy

By Michael Lim Ubac

FORMER Sen. Raul Roco has opted to distance himself from the controversial coconut levy issue involving businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco.

Roco told the INQUIRER yesterday that his commitment to the Arroyo administration only concerned the opening of Naia Terminal 3.

"No, they haven't asked me about it," said Roco, denying Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye's claim that Malacañang had been consulting him on the disposition of the coco levy funds.

Roco, however, said he was willing to give pro-bono advice on the government's opposition to Cojuangco's bid to regain control of the contested sequestered 27-percent interest in San Miguel Corp.

He said he could not give advice on a matter not brought before him. "*Hindi naman ako tinatanong e* (I was not being asked)," said the founder of the Roco, Kapunan, Migallos, Perez and Luna Law Office.

Roco was a lawyer of the ACCRA law firm that helped set up the Coconut Industry Investment Fund in the 1970s which was used to funnel the levy collected from coconut farmers to blue chip investments such as SMC and United Coconut Planters Bank. One of the 14 holding companies of the CIIF, in fact, bore his initials RSR.

He was also an SMC director when Cojuangco, a close associate of the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos, was replaced by Andres Soriano III as SMC chair in 1986. Cojuangco, however, managed to regain control of SMC in 1998 during the Estrada administration.

Although the government had sequestered the 27-percent SMC share, the Supreme Court allowed Cojuangco in 1995 to exercise his voting rights over another 20-percent SMC stake sequestered by the Presidential Commission on Good Government, pending final disposition by the Sandiganbayan.

Roco clarified that he was no consultant to Malacañang.

He said it was President Macapagal-Arroyo who had personally sought his legal advice on the Naia 3 controversy.

"This whole matter of the terminal can be settled so long as people are reasonable and there is no corruption—no hidden cost or transaction. What is important is everybody knows the rules. *Walang gapangan* (No deals). So everyone must go to court," Roco said.

He said that instead of becoming another "Westinghouse," referring to the mothballed Bataan Nuclear Power Plant, Naia Terminal 3 should be put to use.

Roco said that opening the terminal was part of the platform of the Alliance of Hope, the conglomeration of three political parties that supported his presidential candidacy in the last election.

"I was the one who advised the President that (opening the airport) was a political decision. And it was very clear she wanted to open (the facility)," said Roco.

But he said he wondered why the President's legal advisers failed to see that the Office of the President had the power to expropriate properties for public use.

Roco said the Manila International Airport Authority, under its charter, could have expropriated the facility by itself.

Mom was just being polite to GMA–Imee

By Norman Bordadora

ILOCOS Norte Rep. Imee Marcos yesterday dismissed reports that her mother, former First Lady Imelda Marcos, was now supportive of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Imee said her mother was just being typically Filipino in politely saying good things about Ms Arroyo when she went to Malacañang last week for the anniversary of the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women.

"My mother was only being a typical Filipino. We say good things to our hosts," the congresswoman said at a breakfast forum yesterday.

And to show that things were not as they seemed, Imee quoted a Chinese saying.

"Remember the Chinese adage: Keep your friends close but your enemies even closer," she said.

In an interview in Malacañang after the anniversary rites, Imelda was supposed to have expressed the need to support the President. She was also photographed giving Ms Arroyo a buss on the cheek.

Despite her mother's nice words for the President, Imee kept up the offensive against the administration and again questioned Ms Arroyo's victory in the 2004 elections.

"The private interest may no longer be there with the protestant's passing but the public interest is overwhelming. There is a huge public interest to know the truth," Imee said of late actor Fernando Poe Jr.'s election protest against Ms Arroyo.

Watch who you eat with, DOJ warns officials

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Heads of offices and agencies under the Department of Justice have been instructed not to accept invitations from persons or organizations that could invite negative or even criminal perceptions from the public.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez issued the memorandum order after learning that National Bureau of Investigation Director Reynaldo Wycoco and other NBI officials from Manila and Cebu were seen dining with controversial businessman Wellington Lim in a Cebu City restaurant last week.

Wellington and his brother, Peter Lim, had been summoned by the House committee on dangerous drugs in 2001 for their alleged involvement in illegal drugs trafficking after their alleged subordinates—Bernard Liu and Ananias Dy—confessed to the illegal activity.

The Lim brothers denied the accusation and the congressional committee failed to obtain sufficient evidence to charge them in court.

Gonzalez in his Jan. 13, 2005, memorandum directed DOJ officials to screen the guest list before accepting invitations.

"All chiefs of bureaus and offices under or attached to the Department of Justice are advised NOT to accept social invitations and engagements from any group which by reason of their businesses or operations may result to situations which may give rise to conflicts of interest," memorandum circular No. 02 read.

"Everybody is advised to, if possible, scrutinize the guest list when socials are just intimate dinners of small groups," it added.

Gonzalez said he issued the memorandum because of the controversy generated by the Wycoco dinner.

Gonzalez said Wycoco had explained that when he accepted the dinner invitation of his relatives in Cebu, he did not know that Lim would be there.

Gonzalez said he asked Wycoco to put his explanation in writing. "I will decide my next step after getting his written explanation," he said.

The controversial dinner was revealed by radio broadcaster Choy Torralba who happened to be at the Ching Palace in Barangay Lahug here at 8 p.m. of Jan. 6 where he saw Wycoco and Lim dining in the company of about 20 others.

Train for right jobs, seekers advised

By Jerome Aning

LABOR Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas has advised Filipinos seeking employment to make sure they were training for skills the markets need.

"There are currently job mismatches because workers are trained for one thing but the available jobs are in another field," Sto. Tomas said in an interview over government television station NBN-4.

This gave the impression that landing a job was difficult these days, she said.

Asked what measures were needed to address the unemployment problem in the country, the labor secretary said market adjustments were needed in terms of workers' skills and the country's ability to catch up with the requirements.

"What the job market requires, we train people for them," Sto. Tomas said, adding that companies in need of 20 to 100 workers may call the Department of Labor and Employment for the training of workers.

She said the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, an attached agency of DOLE, was working hard to meet the demands of the job market.

Given the state of the world economy, however, the labor chief said the country did well in terms of employment last year. Citing the October 2004 labor force survey, more workers landed jobs last year compared to 2003.

In 2004, some 871,000 workers were deployed overseas while an estimated 741,000 found local jobs through the DOLE's employment network. Sto. Tomas said most of the local jobs were permanent.

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Philippine Psychiatric Association, Inc.

www.ppa.ph

31st Annual Convention

January 25-28, 2005 • Taal Vista Hotel, Tagaytay City

"Mental Health for Filipinos: Pursuing the Vision"

Messages

I greet the officers and members of the Philippine Psychiatric Association, Inc. on the occasion of your 31st Annual Convention.

This year's gathering with the theme, *"Mental Health for Filipinos: Pursuing the Vision,"* underscores your commitment to elevate the standards of your profession and ensure the well being of your patients. I commend you for this convention, which will serve to enlighten our citizenry about your chosen field.

I support your efforts to provide quality psychiatric treatment to your patients during these stressful and challenging times. I invite you to be actively involved in our rural health programs so that our people can become more aware about psychiatric ailments and how these could be prevented.

Mabuhay kayong lahat!

Gloria Arroyo

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President Republic of the Philippines

I convey my warm greetings to the officers and members of the Philippine Psychiatric Association, Inc. as they hold their 31st Annual Convention entitled "Mental Health For Filipinos: Pursuing The Vision".

This event demonstrates your commitment to quality health care as you again gather to keep abreast of the latest breakthroughs and share experiences to improve psychiatric care in the country.

Our growing population has brought about an increase in health demands and we count on your support to continue to provide our people with quality, accessible and affordable health care services.

Let us forge a stronger alliance and bring our country towards better health and progress.

Congratulations and *Mabuhay kayong lahat!*

MANUEL M. DAYRIT, MD, MSc.
Secretary of Health

My best wishes to the esteemed officers and members of the Philippine Psychiatric Association on the occasion of your 31st Annual Convention on January 25-28, 2005 in Tagaytay City.

This convention, themed as *"Mental Health for Filipinos: Pursuing the Vision,"* is a great opportunity for you to further advance the goals of the psychiatric profession and promote mental health care for the Filipinos. As you incessantly commit yourselves in forging greater solidarity and professional excellence, I hope that this convention will bring fruitful rewards to your association.

The people of Tagaytay are one in welcoming you in our beautiful and invigorating city. May you have a pleasant and comfortable stay.

Mabuhay po kayo!

HON. ABRAHAM N. TOLENTINO
Tagaytay City Mayor

Greetings from the Philippine Medical Association!

I am pleased to convey my warmest greetings and felicitations to all the officers and members of the Philippine Psychiatric Association, Inc. on the occasion of its 31st Annual Convention on January 25-28, 2005 at the Taal Vista Hotel in Tagaytay City with the theme: "Mental Health for Filipinos: Pursuing the Vision".

Health planners believe that the main objective of those tasked to provide health services is the improvement of the health status of our people. We are aware however that health encompasses not only the physical but also the mental attributes of a human being. Your theme, therefore, embodies the equal importance you give to mental health and its significance to the total well being of everyone. The pivotal role played by those charged to pursue a balance between these two attributes contributes to the attainment of a strong and a healthy nation. As physicians, we must contribute our utmost share in this endeavour if we want to keep our leadership role in the health care delivery of this country alive and strong.

With that note, I would like to reiterate wishes and warmest regards to one and all! *Mabuhay at Maraming Salamat sa Inyong Lahat!*

BU C. CASTRO, MD, LIB, FPSP
President, Philippine Medical Association

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Messages

In the coming Philippine Psychiatric Association's 31st annual convention, greetings to all members, friends, and partners in our role as mental health providers.

This year's theme, "Mental Health for Filipinos: Pursuing the Vision", epitomizes the provision of mental health for all through service, training, research, and advocacy. The organizers of this year's convention have devoted much time in preparing a program that will interest us, both in our quest for knowledge through the stimulating lectures and the spirit of camaraderie through our socials. For the first time, we will have the PPA Badminton Cup and during the fellowship night, the "Fashion Vs. Stigma". We have also scheduled the ratification of the proposed PPA constitutional amendments.

This is also the first time that the PPA annual convention will be held in Tagaytay City, dubbed as the "Garden City in the Sky". Its cool atmosphere and scenic landscape will surely invigorate our spirits.

In our one year of working together, we find a deep meaning that cheers us up as we gather in our annual convention, knowing that we have done our part in pursuing our vision. On behalf of the Board of Directors of the PPA, we express our gratitude to all the members, our profound appreciation to the organizing committee, and our heartfelt thanks to the unwavering support of our friends from the pharmaceutical industry.

We are looking forward to a fruitful and successful 31st PPA Annual Convention. We hope that you find this convention very rewarding academically and socially.

Mabuhay ang PPA!

IMMartin, MD

IMELDA MORALES-MARTIN, MD, MHSA, FPPA
PPA President

Greetings to all our colleagues!

The Filipino psychiatrist has truly come of age. From being a mere vestigial part of medicine during the last century, our presence is now being felt not only in the field of medicine, but in various other disciples as well: the social sciences, Philippine law and politics, media, religion, and scientific research.

The past (30) years saw the Philippine Psychiatric Association slowly grow in size and strength as it was establishing its own identity. As we embark on the next decade as a potent group, we renew and affirm our commitment to our organization's ideals: the pursuit for excellence and leadership in psychiatric practice and teaching, research and advocacy.

Let us salute the Filipino Psychiatrist and together champion the cause of Philippine mental health during the Philippine Psychiatric Association's 31st Annual Convention this January 25-28, 2005 at the Taal Vista Hotel in Tagaytay City. This year's theme is aptly entitled, "Mental Health for Filipinos: Pursuing the Vision".

See you there!

SONIA CASTRO-RODRIGUEZ, MD, FPPA, FCAPPI
PPA Vice-President and
Chair, Scientific Activities & Conferences

PROGRAMME

PRE-CONVENTION ACTIVITIES:

January 24, 2005 - Monday

2:00 - 7:00 PM	**Workshop on Nullity of Marriage** (Bougainvillaea Room)
2:00 - 2:10 PM	**Introduction** A. Efren B. Reyes, MD, FPPA
2:11 - 2:30 PM	**Background** Alma Lucindo-Jimenez, MD, FPPA
2:31 - 3:00 PM	***Standard Psychiatric Evaluation in the Context of Nullification of Marriage***
	Speaker: Ruby de Guzman Manalastas, MD, DPBP
3:01 - 3:30 PM	***Requisites of the Law Review*** DCA Zenaida Elepano Supreme Court of the Philippines
3:31 - 4:00 PM	***Diagnostic Dilemmas***
	Speaker: Dante H. Abcede, MD, FPPA
4:01 - 4:30 PM	***The Expert Witness***
	Speaker: Isagani S. Gonzales, MD, FPPA
4:31 - 4:45 PM	**Break**
4:46 - 5:30 PM	***The Court in Session***
	Annotated by: Sonia Castro-Rodriguez, MD, FPPA, FCAPPI
5:31 - 6:00 PM	***Errors and Pitfalls in the Process of Reporting/Testifying***
	Speaker: Cecilia Cajipe-Villegas, MD, FPPA
6:01 - 7:00 PM	**Summary** **Open Forum**
7:01 - onwards	**Lundbeck Dinner Symposium**

January 25, 2005 - Tuesday

8:00 - 12:00 NN	University of the Philippines-Philippine General Hospital Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Medicine Seminar on ***"Supervisory Relationship in the Philippine Context"***
12:01 - 2:00 NN	**UCB Lunch Symposium - "Iterax in Anxiety and Sleep"**
	Speaker: Zita Felicitas Artiaga-Soriano, MD, FPPA
	Reactors: Dante H. Abcede, MD, FPPA Venus Serra-Arain, MD, FPPA, MHA A. Efren B. Reyes, MD, FPPA

January 25, 2005 - Tuesday

	Officers of the Day: Celine Hizon-Germar, MD, DPBP Constantine D. Della, MD
8:00 - 11:30 AM	
2:00 - 5:00 PM	**PPA Badminton Cup** (Olivaros Badminton Courts)
3:00 PM	**Opening of Registration**
5:00 PM	**Opening Ceremonies** (Sampaguita Ballroom)
	Master of Ceremonies: Ma. Luz Casimiro-Querubin, MD, FPPA PPA Secretary
	Invocation Dulce Lizza R. Sahagun, MD, FPPA PPA PRO
	Philippine National Anthem Rommel A. Montes, MD
	PPA Hymn Southern Tagalog Group of Psychiatrists (STGP)
	Welcome Addresses Hon. Abraham N. Tolentino Mayor, Tagaytay City Imelda Morales-Martin, MD, MHSA, FPPA PPA President
	Opening Remarks Sonia Castro-Rodriguez, MD, FPPA, FCAPPI PPA VP / Overall Convention Chairperson
5:15 PM	**Introduction of Keynote Address** Hon. Corazon Juliano-Soliman Secretary, DSWD
6:15 PM	**15th Presidential Memorial Lecture:**
	Introduction of Speaker: Victor C. Vinluan, Jr., MD, FPPA, MHA
	"Life in the Trenches: The Psychiatrist Clinician Holds Forth"
	Speaker: Jercyl Leilani L. Demeterio, MD, FPPA
7:00 - 9:00 PM	**Sanofi-Synthelabo Dinner Symposium**
	"Effects of Antipsychotic Theraphy on Cognition Attention and Learning
	Speaker: Prof. Pierre Thomas, MD, PhD. University of Lille, Lille, France

January 26, 2005 - Wednesday

	Officers of the Day: Luis C. Sundiang, MD, FPPA Jocelyn Gauzon-Gayares, MD, DPBP
	(Sampaguita Ballroom)
8:00 AM	**Registration**
8:30 AM	**Opening of Booth Exhibits** **Ribbon Cutting by the PPA Board of Officers**
9:00 - 10:30 AM	***Leadership in Mental Health***
	Chairs: Maria Imelda B. Batar, MD, FPPA Zita Felicitas Artiaga-Soriano, MD, FPPA
	"The Psychiatrist As Leader"
9:00 - 9:20 AM	Lourdes Ladrido-Ignacio, MD, FPPA
9:21 - 9:40 AM	Ma. Luz Casimiro-Querubin, MD, FPPA
9:41 - 9:55 AM	Gerardo Carmelo B. Salazar, MD
9:56 - 10:30 AM	**Open Forum**
10:31 - 11:00 AM	**Break**
11:01 - 12:00 NN	***"Awareness of the Rights of Persons with Mental Illness: An Exploratory Study in Four Selected Hospitals in Metro Manila"***
	Emcee/Moderator: Zita Felicitas Artiaga-Soriano, MD, FPPA
	Authors: Lourdes Ladrido-Ignacio, MD, FPPA Dinah Pacquing-Nadera, MD, FPPA Joseph P. Anlacan, MD
11:01 - 11:10 AM	**Introduction of Paper by the Chair:** Lourdes Ladrido-Ignacio, MD, FPPA
11:11 - 11:30 AM	**Presentation of Paper by the Speaker:** Dinah Palmera Pacquing-Nadera, MD, FPPA
11:31 - 12:00 NN	**Open Forum**
12:01 - 2:00 PM	**Pfizer Lunch Symposium**
	"Alprazolam for Acute and Persistent Anxiety"
	Speakers: Ellis Nazal-Simon, MD, FPPA Lynn Panganiban, MD, Head National Toxicology and Poisons Control Office
2:01 - 3:30 PM	**Parallel Sessions (2)**
	I. Consultation-Liaison Psychiatry (Bougainvillaea Room)
	Chair: Alma Lucindo-Jimenez, MD, FPPA
	Emcee: Ruby De Guzman-Manalastas, MD, DPBP
	"Consultation Liaison: Strategies to Promote Psychiatry in the General Hospital Setting"
2:00 - 2:15 PM	***"CL with the SLMC Geriatric Unit"***
	Speaker: Monina Garduno-Cruz, MD, FPPA
2:16 - 2:30 PM	***"The Medical City Experience"***
	Speaker: Dulce Lizza Reyes-Sahagun, MD, FPPA
2:31 - 2:45 PM	***"Streamlining the Referral System; UP-PGH CL Road-show Presentation"***
	Speaker: Josefina T. Ly-Uson, MD, DPBP
2:46 - 3:00 PM	***Expanding the Interface between Psychiatry and Medicine: UP-PGH handbook – "Rationale Pharmacology of Schizophrenia with Co-Morbid Medical Conditions"***
	Speaker: Constantine D. Della, MD
3:01 - 3:30 PM	**Open Forum**
	Moderator: Henrietta Cabado-Española, MD, FPPA
	II. Addiction Psychiatry (Sinalab Room)
	Chair: Benita Sta. Ana-Ponio, MD, FPPA
2:00 - 2:20 PM	***The Neurobiology of Addiction***
	Speaker: Mariano S. Hembra, MD, DPBP
2:21 - 2:40 PM	***Relapse Prevention***
	Speaker: Ma. Monica Cardinez-Tan, MD, FPPA
2:41 - 3:30 PM	**Open Forum**

• Snacks will be served at the Bougainvillaea Room

3:31 - 5:00 PM	**Constitutional Amendments** (Bougainvillaea Room)
5:01 - 6:30 PM	**Business Meeting**
6:31 - 8:30 PM	**Eli Lilly Dinner Symposium** (Sampaguita Room)
	"Lifespan Impact of ADHD"
	Speaker: Prof. Philip Hazell, (Australia)
	"Strattera: The Philippine Experience"
	Speaker: Cornelio G. Banaag, Jr., MD, FPPA, FCAPPI
8:31 - 11:00 PM	**Fellowship Night**
	"Fashion Against Stigma"
	Chair: Antonio C. Sison, MD, FPPA

• • • Booths will be closed from 09:00 – 09:30 AM and 02:00 – 02:30PM • • •

January 27, 2005 - Thursday

	Officers of the Day: Evangeline Bascara-Dela Fuente, MD, FPPA Casto P. Hermino, Jr., MD, DPBP
8:00AM-5:00PM	**Registration** **Tour of Booth Exhibits**
9:00AM-2:00PM	**Elections** (Secretariat Room beside Bougainvillaea Room)
10:30 - 12:00 NN	**Parallel Sessions (2)**
	I. Forensic Psychiatry (Bougainvillaea Room)
	Chair: Beverly A. Azucena, MD, FPPA
	"Psychiatry, Society and the Law in the Realm of Domestic Violence"
10:30 - 10:50 AM	Ma. Rossana E. De Guzman, MD, FPPA
10:51 - 11:10 AM	Atty. Katrina Legarda
11:11 - 12:00 NN	**Open Forum**
	II. Geriatric Psychiatry (Sinalab Room)
	Chair: Elizabeth Espinosa-Rondain, MD, FPPA
10:30 - 11:15 AM	***"Forget Me Not"*** *(An Interactive Session)*
	Facilitators: Elizabeth Espinosa-Rondain, MD, FPPA Robert D. Buenaventura, MD, FPPA
11:16 - 11:45 AM	***"Acetylcholinesterase Inhibitors: The Pros and Cons in Managing Dementia"***
	Speaker: Paulino S. Tenchavez, MD
11:46 - 12:00 NN	**Open Forum**
	Moderator: Elizabeth Espinosa-Rondain, MD, FPPA
12:01 - 2:00 PM	**Astra Zeneca Lunch Symposium** (Sampaguita Ballroom)
	Speakers: Pureza T. Oñate, MD, FPPA, FCAPPI Gerardo Carmelo B. Salazar, MD
2:01 - 4:00 PM	**Research Competition** (Bougainvillaea Room)

• Snacks will be served at the Bougainvillaea Room

4:01 - 5:30 PM	**Residents' Case Presentation** (Bougainvillaea Room)
05:30 - 07:00 PM	**Induction of New Regular and Associate Members** **Conferment of New Fellows of the PPA** (Sampaguita Ballroom)
7:01 - 9:00 PM	**Janssen Dinner Symposium** (Sampaguita Ballroom)
	"Risperdal Consta: Towards Remission and Functionality"
	Speakers: Bernardo L. Conde, MD, FPPA A. Efren B. Reyes, MD, FPPA Anselmo T. Tronco, MD, FPPA

• • • Booths will be closed from 02:00 – 02.30 PM • • •

January 28, 2005 - Friday

	Officers of the Day: Ma. Gwendolyn Nery-Marquez, MD, FPPA Rodney FP. Dalisay, MD
	(Sampaguita Ballroom)
8:00AM-5:00PM	**Registration** **Tour of Booths Exhibits**
9:00 - 10:00 AM	***"The Psychodynamics of Professional Fees"***
	Chair: Ma. Rossana E. De Guzman, MD, FPPA
9:00 - 9:15	Speaker: Alma Lucindo-Jimenez, MD, FPPA
9:16 - 9:25	Reactors: Pacita Ramos-Salceda, MD, FPPA
9:26 - 9:35	Baltazar V. Reyes, MD, FPPA
9:36 - 10:00	**Open Forum**
10:01 - 10:30 AM	**Break**
10:31 - 12:00 NN	***The Ethical Relationship Between Psychiatrists and the Pharmaceutical Industry - Revisited***
	Chair: Margaret Briones-Querijero, MD, FPPA
10:31 - 10:50 AM	Speakers: Luis E. Abola, MD, FPCP, FPCPM Vice-President, Phil. College of Pharmaceutical Medicine
10:51 - 11:05 AM	Robert D. Buenaventura, MD, FPPA
11:06 - 11:20 AM	Anselmo T. Tronco, MD, FPPA
11:21 - 12:00 NN	**Open Forum**
12:01 - 2:00 PM	**Abbott Lunch Symposium**
	"The Bipolar Talk Show – 2"
	Speakers/Hosts: Antonio C. Sison, MD, FPPA Edgardo Juan L. Tolentino, Jr., MD, FPPA
2:01 - 3:30 PM	**Parallel Sessions (2)**
	I. Social and Community Psychiatry (Bougainvillaea Room)
	Chair: Lourdes Ladrido-Ignacio, MD, FPPA
	Theme: Perspectives on Depression: **The Social and Economic Burden of Depression**
2:00 - 2:20 PM	***The Socioeconomic Burden of Depression (SEBoD) Initiative in the Asia Pacific Region of the World Psychiatric Association and the Philippine Project***
	Speaker: Lourdes Ladrido-Ignacio, MD, FPPA
2:21 - 2:40 PM	***Depression in Adult Patients: Results of a Study among General Medical Patients and Patients with Tuberculosis***
	Speaker: Antonio C. Sison, MD, FPPA
2:41 - 3:00 PM	***Nuances of the Cultural Language of Depression***
	Speaker: Dr. Ma. Angeli Lorbes-Morico
3:00 - 3:30 PM	**Open Forum**
	Moderator: Eleanor Lacuna-Ronquillo, MD, FPPA
	II. Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (Sinalab Room)
	Chair: Norieta Calma-Balderrama, MD, FPPA, FCAPPI
	"The Child Psychiatrist as Leader"
2:00 - 2:15 PM	***"Qualities of the Child Psychiatrist as Leader"***
	Speaker: Cornelio G. Banaag, Jr., MD, FPPA, FCAPPI
2:16 - 2:30 PM	***"Social Work and Child Psychiatry"*** **(Working with the Child Psychiatrist)**
	Speaker: Dean Erlinda A. Cordero
2:31 - 2:45 PM	***"The Child Psychiatrist as Leader - Future Directions"***
	Speaker: Jocelyn Nieva Yatco-Bautista, MD, FPPA, FCAPPI
2:46 - 3:30 PM	**Open Forum**
3:31 - 4:00 PM	**Break**
4:01 - 5:30 PM	**Conferment of Diplomates of the Philippine Board of Psychiatry, Inc.** (Sampaguita Ballroom)
5:31 - 7:30 PM	**Glaxo SmithKline Dinner Symposium**
	"Current Treatment Approach in Managing Bipolar Disorder"
	Speaker: Gary S. Sachs, MD Massachusetts General Hospital, Dept. of Psychiatry
7:31 - 9:00 PM	**Closing Ceremonies**
	Master of Ceremonies • Ma. Luz Casimiro-Querubin, MD, FPPA
	Invocation • Jocelyn Nieva Yatco-Bautista, MD, FPPA, FCAPPI
	Philippine National Anthem and PPA Hymn • Venus Serra-Arain, MD, FPPA, MHA
	Awarding of Plaques of Accreditation • Victor C. Vinluan, Jr., MD, FPPA, MHA
	Induction of Life Members • Venus Serra-Arain, MD, FPPA, MHA
	Induction of Honorary Members • Imelda Morales-Martin, MD, MHSA, FPPA
	Special Awards • Jocelyn Nieva Yatco-Bautista, MD, FPPA, FCAPPI
	Summary of Events • Sonia Castro-Rodriguez, MD, FPPA, FCAPPI
	Awarding of Tokens and Certificates of Appreciation
	Induction of New Officers of the PBP
	Induction of New Officers of the PPA
	Outgoing President's Address
	Turn-Over Ceremonies
	Incoming President's Address

• • • Booths will be closed from 09:00 – 09.30 AM and 02:00 – 02:30 PM • • •

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Tel. No. (02) 635-9858
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Jing Batorre-Mistica
Executive Secretary

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Army to cut offices, save ₱21M

By Alcuin Papa

THE PHILIPPINE Army will undergo a major reorganization next month to further streamline it and generate savings of as much as P20.9 million, the Army said yesterday.

Philippine Army chief Lt. Gen. Generoso Senga said that beginning February, the Army will trim the number of its general staff offices, known as G-staff, from the original 10 to seven. In addition, Senga said one special and technical staff office would be dissolved.

"The restructuring will make the Army headquarters and its subordinate units leaner and will improve the personnel fill-up of subordinate units as personnel affected by the restructuring will be assigned to field units," Senga said.

The reorganization, Senga said, was the result of a series of consultations with other Army officials. "Measures have been placed to ensure that core activities of offices deactivated, which are essential to mission accomplishment, are retained," he added.

Senga said the amount saved by the Army with the reorganization would be used to enhance the operational capabilities of subordinate and field units.

The Army reorganization comes after the Armed Forces of the Philippines General Headquarters itself trimmed its Joint Staff offices, otherwise known as J-staff, from 11 to seven.

The Army chief first announced the reorganization when he assumed his post in December.

"The Army headquarters will keep in step and follow the lead of General Headquarters, AFP, to trim the headquarters of excess fat, restructure the logistics and comptroller system to ensure sustained capability buildup of the Army's forces, and optimize the utilization of financial resources," Senga had said in his assumption speech.

The reorganization of the Army and General Headquarters at Camp Aguinaldo was prompted by charges of corruption filed against former AFP comptroller Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia, who is facing court-martial and graft cases before the Ombudsman for his failure to declare some of his assets and deposits in his Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Net Worth.

Meanwhile, the retirement of three senior officers of the Philippine Air Force has also triggered a minor reshuffle.

Air Force Vice Commander Maj. Gen. Arcadio Seron is set to retire on Jan. 17. Maj. Gen. Ramon Ragasa, commander of the Tactical Operations Command retired on Jan. 10, while Brig. Gen. Fernando Doria, commander of the 520th Air Base Wing at Villamor Air Base in Pasay City, retired on Jan. 12.

Seron was earlier designated acting commanding general of the PAF after the May 10 elections until July 7 when Lt. Gen. Jose Reyes took over.

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E. Arnedo; 78

EVY ALMORADIE Gutierrez Arnedo died in Chicago, Illinois, USA, on Jan. 9 at the age of 78.

Her body lies at La Funeraria Novaliches, 949 Quirino Highway, Novaliches, Quezon City. Interment will be announced later.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, January 16, 2005
Feast of the Sto. Niño

1st Reading: Isaiah 9:1-7

A son is given to us

The people who walk in darkness have seen a great light. A light has dawned on those who live in the land of the shadow of death.

You have enlarged the nation; you have increased their joy. They rejoice before you, as people rejoice at harvest time as they rejoice in dividing the spoil.

For the yoke of their burden, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressors, you have broken it as on the day of Midian.

Every warrior's boot that tramped in war, every cloak rolled in blood, will be thrown out for burning, will serve as fuel for the fire.

For a child is born to us, a son is given us; the royal ornament is laid upon his shoulder, and his name is proclaimed: "Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

To the increase of his powerful rule in peace, there will be no end. Vast will be his dominion, he will reign on David's throne and over all his kingdom, to establish and uphold it with justice and righteousness from this time onward and forever.

The zealous love of Yahweh Sabaoth will do this.

The Lord has sent a word against Jacob: the sentence fell upon Israel.

2nd Reading: Ephesians 1:3-6,15-18

God has blessed us in Jesus

Blessed be God, the Father of Christ Jesus our Lord, who in Christ has blessed us from heaven with every spiritual blessing.

God chose us in Christ before the creation of the world to be holy and without sin in his presence.

From eternity he destined us in love to be his adopted sons and daughters through Christ Jesus, thus fulfilling his free and generous will.

This goal suited him: that his loving-kindness which he granted us in his Beloved might finally receive all glory and praise.

I have been told of your faith and your affection towards all the believers, so I always give thanks to God, remembering you in my prayers.

May the God of Christ Jesus our Lord, the Father of Glory, reveal himself to you and give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation, that you may know him.

May he enlighten your inner vision, that you may appreciate the things we hope for, since we were called by God.

May you know how great is the inheritance, the glory, God sets apart for his saints.

Gospel: Matthew 18:1-5,10

Never despise any of these little ones

At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked him, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?"

Then Jesus called a little child, set the child in the midst of the disciples, and said, "I assure you that unless you change and become like little children, you cannot enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever becomes lowly like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven, and whoever receives such a child in my name receives me.

See that you do not despise any of these little ones, for I tell you: their angels in heaven continually see the face of my heavenly Father.

Commentary

Whose heart is not moved by the birth of a child? Who can experience the happy face of a child and not feel a surge of hope? Hundreds of years before Christ was born, the meaning of his coming was described: "a light has dawned on those who live in the land of the shadow of death... for a child is born to us." This feast of Sto. Niño is special to those whose hopes are awakened by children, who see in the child God who brings love, peace and security. The birth of each child is a sign that God has not yet given up on the human race. Sto. Niño, teach us to trust as you did in God, your Father, our Father.

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A SEVEN-MINUTE chopper ride ferries Estrada from Villamor Air Base to Tanay, Rizal. ROGER MARGALLO

Overkill: More cops than Erap well-wishers

By Nancy C. Carvajal

THERE were more policemen than ralliers along the road to the airport when ex-President Joseph Estrada returned yesterday from Hong Kong.

The Estrada supporters who staged the rallies included a 50-man delegation from PDP-Laban wearing yellow shirts, about 500 members of the People's Movement Against Poverty, and a 15-person contingent from the Sinag-Dambana group supposedly connected with actor Rez Cortez.

Close to 1,000 policemen were deployed in the area, according to Senior Insp. Juanito Ancheta.

Asked why there were more policemen than demonstrators, Ancheta said their presence in the area was a preventive measure.

"We are here to prevent any untoward incident," Ancheta said. He also said police had received intelligence reports that some elements would try to infiltrate the crowd.

"We just want to be ready for anything," Ancheta said.

A brief fistfight between members of the PMAP and Sinag-Dambana marred the otherwise peaceful rally.

According to members of Sinag-Dambana, a heated argument ensued between one of its members and one of the leaders of PMAP.

The Sinag-Dambana members said they got irritated when the PMAP leader kept saying over the megaphone to "beware of infiltrators sent by Gloria Arroyo."

"We are not infiltrators, we are supporters of FPJ and Erap," said Sinag-Dambana leader Eddie Ulanimo.

Erap vows to lead RP to 'new dawn'

From page A1

He also lashed out at "the unrestrained corruption in all branches and levels of government [producing] ... an administration largely without public support as it is discredited and distrusted not only by our people and our neighbors but also by the rest of the international community."

"I have returned to do what the Constitution had tasked me to do in June 1998," Estrada declared, referring to the election mandate he got which a popular revolt against him cut short in January 2001.

Massive security

Tight security was in place at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport. Even the elevator reserved for Estrada's use was locked hours before his arrival.

Asked about the massive security for Estrada, Philippine National Police chief Edgar Aglipay quipped: "It's just fear that the media would crush Erap, that's all."

Aglipay said about 2,000 policemen were deployed to secure Metro Manila in case of violence.

Less than 1,000 Estrada followers, largely belonging to the People's Movement Against Poverty (PMAP) led by Ronald Lumbao, waited for their idol along the airport road less than a kilometer from Naia.

But security personnel whisked Estrada from the airport to the nearby Villamor Air Base, where a helicopter ferried him to his house in Tanay.

The only incident was a brief fistfight among Estrada's supporters. *(See boxed story top right).*

Pandora's box

In his statement, Estrada said his removal from the presidency "had clearly opened a Pandora's box: One that contained social divisiveness as the gap between the rich and the poor continues to widen; hope has been lost, being transformed into disillusionment on promises made, but not kept by the de facto administration."

He described the Arroyo administration as "a regime whose legitimacy remains suspect in the eyes of the great majority of our people.

"Yes, my people, I have returned. The times today are indeed dangerous times to be right, because the government today is so very wrong," he said.

New strength

Estrada said his successful surgery had given him new strength "to unite the people and set the path for them to see a new dawn."

Estrada's allies expressed optimism that the opposition would unite under him.

"The opposition will gel, don't worry. There is always a leader for every season," Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay said.

Strong opposition needed

Binay was one of the key opposition leaders who launched the so-called consultative "people's assemblies" to help unite the opposition.

Former Sen. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan said a strong legal opposition was necessary in a strong democracy.

"The opposition is getting its act together because it's also therapeutic," he said.

Without a strong, legal opposition, the country will be plunged again into "lots of tension and I hope it's not bloody, because that's the least preferred mode," Honasan said.

Discards cane

Estrada briefly discarded his cane when he greeted and smiled broadly at some 500 well-wishers who had gathered at his villa's gate since noon yesterday.

His supporters came with big banners and two marching bands played dance songs while waiting for the former president to arrive.

No destabilization plot

Flanked by police escorts, Estrada waved as the crowd erupted into cheers. Then, in less than five minutes, he was gone.

"I thanked my countrymen for their support and prayers," he told reporters in Filipino.

Asked about a destabilization plot allegedly hatched by his camp, Estrada said: "There is no truth to it. Our group won't do such a thing."

Former senator and vice presidential candidate Loren Legarda said Estrada had lost 10 pounds as a result of his knee operation in Hong Kong.

Those who came home with Estrada included sons Sen. Jinggoy Estrada and San Juan Mayor JV Ejercito, Dr. Lorenzo Hocson and his four Philippine National Police escorts.

Upon boarding PAL flight No. 306, Estrada turned taciturn and refused to talk to reporters during the one-hour and 45-minute flight.

Assassination plot?

Asked why, Senator Estrada said his father just wanted to be left alone. Dressed in a dark blue jacket over light brown pants, Estrada was seen reading the newspaper in the plane's Mabuhay class.

He was brought to the plane in a wheel chair. Upon arriving at Naia, he chose to walk the whole stretch to the tarmac using a cane.

Senator Estrada was reported to have asked Aglipay to allow the former President to have a press briefing so he could read his arrival statement, but Aglipay was said to have turned this down, maintaining that Estrada should be immediately returned to his rest house.

Aglipay told reporters the heavy security for Estrada was prompted by reports of a plot to assassinate the ex-President.

Assassination plot

"There was a report about the assassination of the former president, but that is not confirmed. We needed to take action whether or not the report was confirmed," Aglipay said.

"It is better for us to over-react rather than to be blamed in the end if something happened to our former President," Aglipay said.

He refused to elaborate on the supposed plot. ***With reports from Nancy Carvajal and Alcuin Papa***

Joke, joke joke, Erap tells . . .

From page A1

Estrada admitted that he was sore at ABS-CBN for taking his statement seriously.

On Friday, Estrada refused to let this reporter—along with the ABS-CBN crew—interview him in Hong Kong, saying that his upscale flat at the Parkview hotel was "off limits" to reporters who sowed disinformation.

However, he allowed reporters from a "friendly" newspaper and a television network to interview him at around the same time.

"*Baka kayo sumunod sa* ABS-CBN [You may be next after ABS-CBN]. You have been sowing disinformation for so long now," he had told the INQUIRER and let out a hearty laugh.

He was referring to the recent torching of an ABS-CBN OB van in Mandaluyong City.

'Don't make issue out of humor

"Only those who are not familiar with my humor will make an issue out of my statement," Estrada said.

But before the interview, Estrada gave this reporter a dressing-down for reporting on his alleged lavish lifestyle in Hong Kong and for having his barber flown in from the Philippines last week.

"You're too much in the way you hit people. I think I should not be talking to you," he said, sounding more serious this time.

At one point, one of Estrada's police escorts joked: "*O ano, bugbugin na natin ito* [So, are we going to beat him up]?"

Tasteless

In Lucena City, the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines assailed Estrada for saying that the INQUIRER could be the next target in what appeared to be a series of attacks against members of media.

"If (it's true that) Estrada was joking when he said it—it's a tasteless joke, considering the unprecedented number of Filipino journalists killed just this year and the harassment and death threats many of us receive," Carlos Conde, NUJP secretary general, said in a statement.

Conde recalled the tendency of the ousted President "to come down hard on critical members of the press, as he demonstrated so chillingly during his presidency, when he and his cronies conspired to close down the Gokongwei-owned Manila Times."

During his term, Estrada also tried to intimidate the INQUIRER—because of its critical reportage on his administration—by initiating an ad boycott among his friends from the movie industry and big business.

Conde said Estrada's recent pronouncements in Hong Kong against the INQUIRER "should be viewed as a threat."

"Estrada practically justified the violence being committed against members of the press," he said, adding: "To imply approval of violence to punish journalists for alleged biases and weaknesses in their reportage is a dangerous display of contempt for democracy."

Last night in HK

Estrada spent his last night at the Hong Kong Adventist Hospital getting a final dressing for his replaced knees.

He said Chinese orthopedic surgeon Julian Chang personally attended to him.

"I bade him goodbye and he gave me the go-signal to fly to the Philippines. He was amazed by my recovery," Estrada said.

Chang also warned him to be careful because if he tripped and fell, it could seriously affect his titanium knees.

Estrada denied that he had spent his last night in Hong Kong partying and meeting with Chinese-Filipino cronies.

How could he, he said, when many of his relatives and former Cabinet members had already gone home.

"I did oblige meeting with a group of overseas Filipino workers in Hong Kong since I had no other visitor on my schedule," Estrada said.

This was confirmed by his police escorts, as well as three print journalists and two television reporters who were allowed to interview Estrada in his flat on Friday night.

No bargaining with therapist

In a separate interview at the PAL VIP lounge in Hong Kong, Estrada's Filipino doctor Lorenzo Hocson said that Chinese physical therapist Chung Youkar, who's in her mid-30s and has a masters degree from New York, would accompany Estrada to Manila.

Hocson said Chung would be staying here for a week to supervise Estrada's leg exercises and to train local physical therapists on which exercises would help speed up his recovery.

He said Estrada could, at best, now walk only short distances.

The former president said he was impressed with Chung because she was so unforgiving with his daily one-hour leg exercises.

"She makes me do 40 repetitions. I ask for 30 and she says, 'No bargaining,'" Estrada said with a guffaw.

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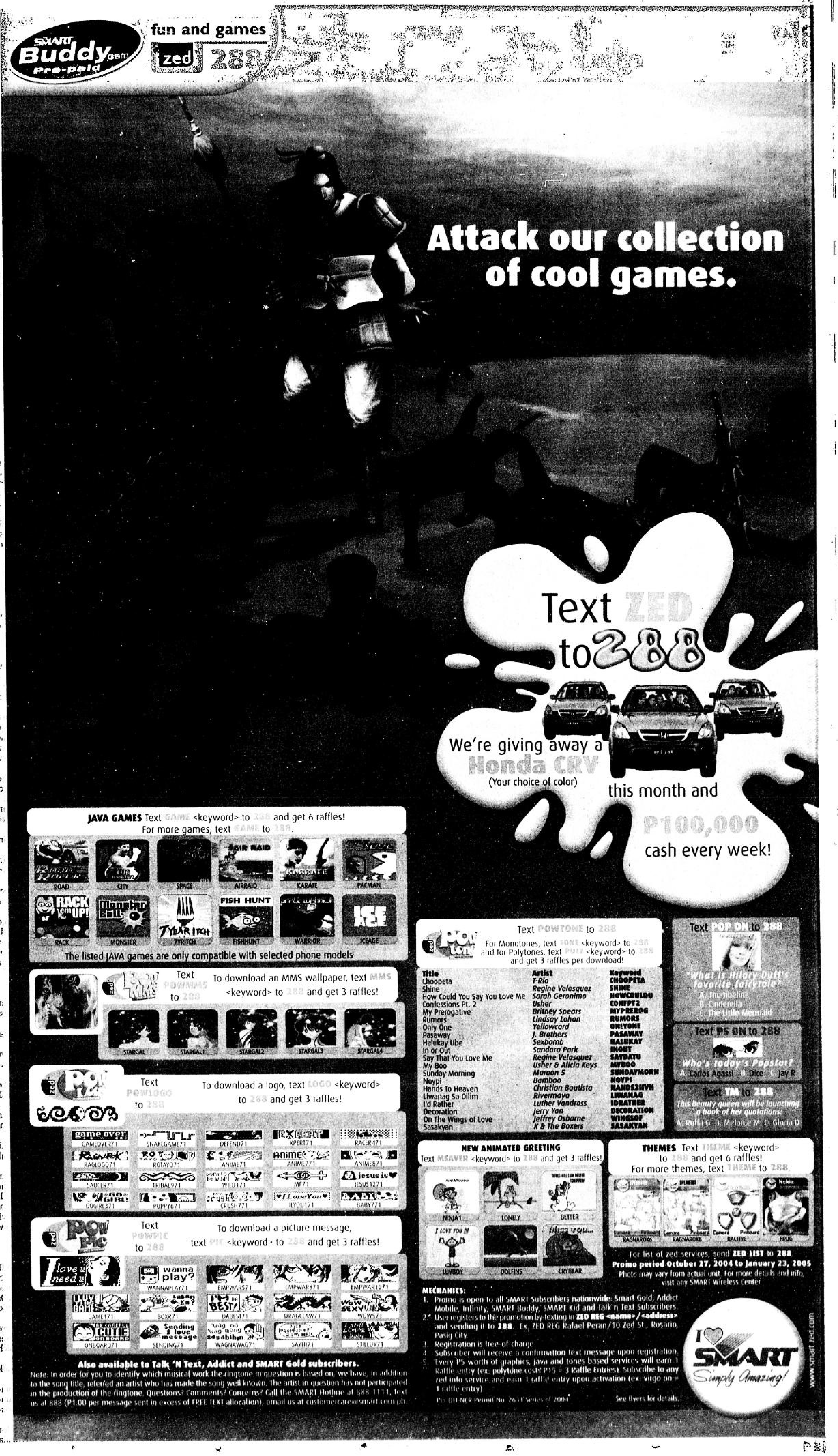

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

UN: Fewer tsunami orphans than feared

BANDA ACEH, Indonesia—There were probably fewer orphans than originally thought in Asia's tsunami-hit areas, the head of the UN Children's Fund said, and efforts should be directed toward uniting children with family members.

Carol Bellamy, executive director of Unicef, spoke after the UN agency said there were reports Sri Lanka's Tamil Tiger rebels were recruiting children displaced by the tsunami.

Indonesia found almost 4,000 more bodies, taking the global death toll from the disaster to more than 162,000, with searches completed in areas most damaged by the Dec. 26 tsunami *(See sidebar)*.

But life was starting to return to normal in some towns and villages on battered Indian Ocean coasts with markets reopening and fishermen casting their nets again.

UN officials said the threat of disease to survivors had diminished but doctors reported children were dying from pneumonia. Health workers said they remained on guard.

Of those killed in the earthquake and tidal wave that swept through south Asia and northeast Africa, half were children, according to Jan Egeland, the UN emergency relief coordinator.

A very large number of child survivors were believed to have been orphaned, but Bellamy said in New York that new data suggested those initial estimates had been exaggerated.

As an example, she said preliminary data in Sri Lanka on 3,000 children showed that 836 had lost both parents but had an extended family, and 38 seemed to be totally unaccompanied.

"So the numbers are big, but the numbers seemingly with no one are going to be quite small," Bellamy told a news conference.

But Unicef's Sri Lankan representative spoke on Friday of reports the Tamil Tigers had recruited three children in Sri Lanka's east, where the rebels control large pockets of jungle.

"Recruitment... was an issue before the tsunami. It's an issue that continues to be of concern," Ted Chaiban told Reuters.

"We said (to the rebels)... you send out instructions that no child that has been displaced by the tsunami should in any way be affected or harassed by any person."

Two of the children had been reunited with their family but a 15-year-old girl was missing from a camp for the homeless, said Chaiban.

"We will be advocating strongly for her release," he said.

The rebels deny recruiting children, saying many youngsters lie about their age to join the group, which relied heavily on child soldiers during a two-decade war for autonomy, a conflict which has been in limbo for three years due to a ceasefire.

More than 30,000 were killed by the tsunami in Sri Lanka, over 15,000 in India and 5,300 in Thailand. But Indonesia was worst hit with at least 110,000 deaths. People were also killed in Malaysia, the Maldives, Bangladesh, Burma and East Africa. *Reuters*

SLOW night—Thai bar girls wait determinedly for customers at an outdoor bar Jan. 15. Tourism in the Patong area following the tsunami has slowed, say nightspot owners. About 5,300 people were killed in the Phuket area, with 3,300 still missing. AP

Quake, tsunami deaths inch up to 163,370

JAKARTA—The death toll from the earthquake and tsunamis that devastated Indian Ocean coastlines last month rose slightly Saturday to 163,370 with Thailand reporting new figures.

Indonesia was hardest-hit by the Dec. 26 quake and tsunamis, with 110,229 confirmed deaths and 12,132 people missing as of Thursday, the social affairs ministry said.

Thailand's tsunami death toll inched higher Saturday to 5,318 confirmed dead after five more bodies were recovered, while the number of missing dropped by 39 to 3,199, the interior ministry said.

The number of estimated foreign deaths on Thai beaches was unchanged at 2,171, the ministry's disaster management division said in its daily update.

Sri Lanka's tsunami death toll rose by 27 to 30,920 and the number of those reported missing has fallen by four to 6,034, according to latest government figures released Friday.

In neighboring India, more than 300 more people were confirmed dead on the Andaman islands, pushing the official death toll to 10,672 with 5,711 still missing and feared dead.

Burma's Prime Minister Soe Win has said 59 people were killed in the tsunamis and more than 3,200 left homeless. This was down from the UN's estimated 90.

At least 82 people were killed and another 26 were missing in the Maldives, a government spokesperson said. *AFP*

US soldier in Abu Ghraib fotos convicted

FORT HOOD, Texas—A military jury Friday convicted Specialist Charles Graner of beating and humiliating Iraqi prisoners at Abu Ghraib in a scandal documented in sordid photographs that caused worldwide outrage.

The 10 jurors found Graner guilty of beating prisoners, forcing them to masturbate and piling them naked atop each other, and could sentence him to as many as 15 years in prison and discharge him from the army.

The military policeman, who is seen as the ringleader of the abuses at the US-run Iraqi prison, stood at attention and showed no visible reaction as the verdict was announced.

He did not testify before the verdict was passed but could do so before sentencing, which the jury was expected to decide by early Saturday.

Several witnesses appeared after the verdict, including Hussein Mutar, a detainee at Abu Ghraib who said in a videotaped deposition that he wanted to kill himself following the sexual humiliations to which Graner subjected him.

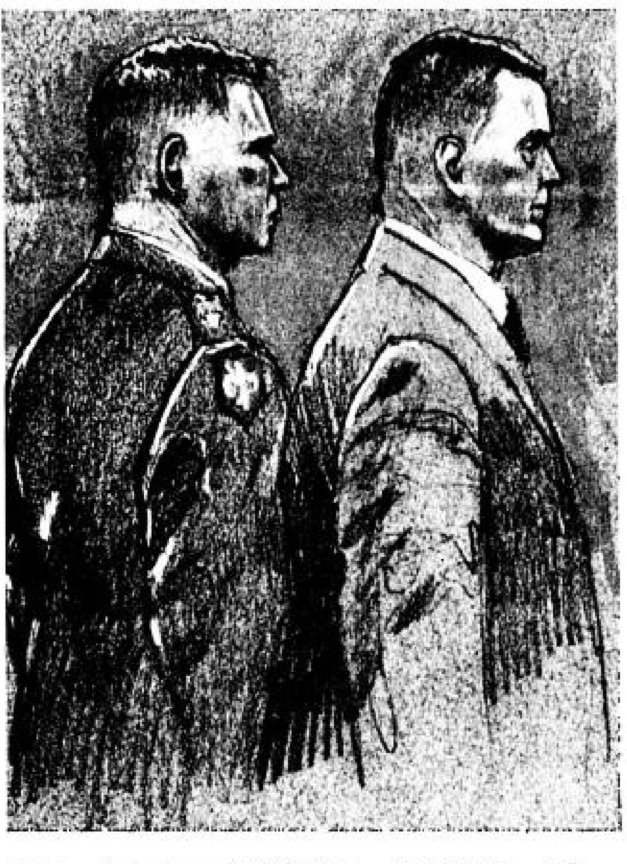
"The Americans came to free the Iraqi people from Saddam, I didn't think this would happen," the suspected car thief said of the abuses.

Graner "was the instigator for what happened at Abu Ghraib," Captain Chris Graveline said earlier in the government's closing arguments at the court-martial.

"What we have here is plain abuse... there is no justification, it's for sport, it's for laughs," he told the court at the Fort Hood US army base in Texas.

He pointed to the notorious photographs of a smiling Graner and other military policeman standing by naked detainees in humiliating positions at the US-run prison near Baghdad.

The pictures stirred worldwide outrage and severely harmed the reputation of the US troops in Iraq when they were published early last year. *AFP*



ARTIST'S rendition of Army Spc. Charles Graner (right) and his defense counsel Guy Womak listening to the guilty verdicts at the former's court martial at Fort Hood, Texas, Jan. 14. AP

US general can't guarantee peaceful Iraq vote as attacks mount

BAGHDAD—A US general in Baghdad conceded that his troops could not guarantee a peaceful election day, just two weeks away, as rebel attacks multiplied in Iraq.

Kurdish parties reached a tentative agreement to participate in elections in the oil-rich city of Kirkuk, where friction runs high in the mixed Kurdish and Arab population.

In the latest assault on the polls, insurgents set off a bomb in a voting center in Sharqat, a town with a strong rebel presence north of Baghdad, badly damaging it, police said.

No one was in the center at the time of the blast, the second there in two months.

In Sharqat, 300 km north of Baghdad in Salahuddin province, in the Sunni Muslim heartland, people's fears of living under the rule of the country's long-oppressed Shiite majority have allowed rebels to gain a foothold.

In other violence, a civilian, a policeman and two Iraqi soldiers were killed in separate incidents north of Baghdad.

Meanwhile, in the northern city of Mosul, a car bomb exploded Friday as a US convoy drove through the central district of Al-Muthanna, a witness said.

There was no immediate confirmation from the US military in Mosul, one of the trouble spots where insurgents are expected to attempt to derail elections.

Gunmen shot dead late Thursday another member of Iraq's electoral commission, west of Baghdad, an interior ministry official said on Friday.

He was the eighth electoral official to be killed in the run-up to the poll planned for Jan. 30.

Two US Marines were killed Thursday in Iraq's violence-wracked western Al-Anbar province. The deaths raise the toll to 1,355 US soldiers killed in action since the US invasion of Iraq in March 2003.

And 15 Iraqi soldiers were kidnapped by gunmen off their bus after they finished work at the Al-Asad US military base in the lawless western province of Al-Anbar.

The men, who ride daily out of the Al-Asad airbase, about 150 km west of Baghdad, were ambushed with rocket-propelled grenades and Russian-made RPK machine guns, said police Col. Fadel Abdul Dulaimi.

In a further threat to already faltering hopes for widespread voter turnout, the Islamic Army in Iraq (IAI) roundly denounced the concept of democracy, saying it deviated from the precepts of sharia, or Islamic law.

In an Internet statement that could not be verified, it called on Iraqis to boycott the election.

Kurdish parties reached an informal agreement to participate in the elections in Kirkuk after Iraq's electoral commission agreed to count people on the voting rolls who were displaced under Saddam Hussein, electoral board spokesperson Farid Ayar said.

The move awaited approval from the Kurdish parliament and it was not clear whether the breakthrough would calm Kirkuk or aggravate tensions among ethnic groups.

Senior US officials and commanders in Baghdad braced for bloodshed on election day, anticipating car bombs, gunfire, mortars and rocket attacks.

"There are places here that are ugly. There are other places looking pretty dog-gone good," Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Hammond, deputy commander of US troops in the capital, told reporters Friday.

"Intimidation factor is probably more prevalent in some places than other."

A senior American official told AFP that sections of western and northern Baghdad, including the Sunni Muslim Adhamiya district, would probably have low turnout due to insurgent threats.

In some of those districts, voter registration forms were not even handed out, the official added.

The latest killings came after an aide to Iraq's top Shiite leader Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, the aide's son and four bodyguards were murdered Wednesday night after they left prayers in the Sunni-majority town of Salman Pak, southeast of the capital.

On Friday, an Islamist group in Iraq claimed responsibility for killing him.

A statement, whose authenticity could not be verified, was signed by the "Ansar Al-Islam Group—Brigade of Saad bin Abi Waqas." It warned that the attack "is only the first and will not be the last by our group."

Outgoing chief US Secretary of State Colin Powell said all groups must vote if democracy is to succeed.

"I think the Sunnis want to have an opportunity to speak, with respect to how they wish to be led," he told PBS television.

Powell expressed confidence that "there will be sufficient turnout so that you get a sense of what the Sunnis want to do" and suggested a failure to achieve that would be a setback for the transition to self-rule.

Abroad, Dutch Foreign Minister Ben Bot said Friday the Netherlands would make no change in plans to withdraw its 1,350 troops stationed in Iraq in mid-March, but Prime Minister Jan Peter Balkenende was a little less firm on the issue. *AFP*

Global trade in stolen artwork a huge industry

By Maryclaire Dale

PHILADELPHIA, Pennsylvania—Art theft may conjure up images of a suave movie villain creeping through a dark gallery—or last year's bold daylight robbery of Edvard Munch's "The Scream" from a Norway museum.

Most art heists, however, are far more subtle, involving forged documents, fake prints or smuggled cultural artifacts that slowly make their way into the hands of private owners or museums.

It's also a huge industry: Interpol ranks it third among property crimes worldwide.

A new FBI task force on stolen art hopes to learn more about the global trade—and how to tackle it—with the help of professionals and scholars in museums, as well as art and antiques dealers.

Worldwide, only 5 percent to 10 percent of artwork reported stolen is recovered, said Lynne Richardson, who manages the art theft program at FBI headquarters in Washington. The group wants to learn more about how purloined art makes its way to US shores.

"We would like to identify more smuggling groups, and more organized crime groups that are involved in this," she said.

This week, the eight task force members visited curators at the Impressionist-rich Barnes Museum, conservationists at the Philadelphia Museum of Art and archaeologists at the University of Pennsylvania's Museum of Archeology and Anthropology, as well as art and antiques dealers.

Most art stolen in the United States is taken during residential burglaries, the FBI said. But perhaps the bigger problem is the sale of art stolen offshore to eager US buyers, who may or may not sense their illicit history.

"By the time they arrive here, they have (forged ownership) papers on them," Richardson said.

Although collectors can be prosecuted for buying art that they know—or should know—is stolen, that rarely happens.

More often, prosecutors in recent years have gone after shady dealers, such as Frederick Schultz, a prominent New York art dealer now serving a 33-month sentence for trading in stolen Egyptian antiquities.

In a memorable Philadelphia case, the FBI set up a successful 1997 sting to recover a 1,500-year-old Peruvian "backflap"—a piece of gold armor worn by warriors—looted a decade earlier from a Mochu lord's grave in northern Peru.

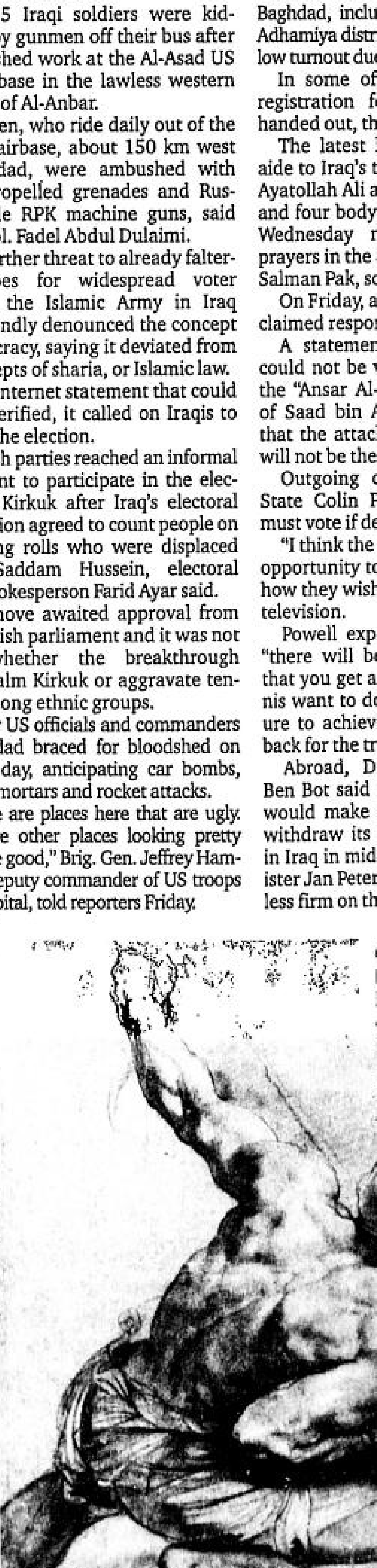
While Peru got the $1.6 million treasure back, the Miami smugglers—who tried to sell it to an undercover agent—spent just a few months in prison. The real target of the probe—Panamanian ambassador Francisco Iglesias, who allegedly helped get the large piece to New York through diplomatic mail—fled the United States and remains a fugitive.

Assistant US Attorney Bob Goldman, one of two federal prosecutors on the FBI task force, handled the backflap case and others involving a Civil War expert who staged phony appraisals on the PBS series "Antiques Roadshow" and antique gun dealers who conned a Colt firearms collector out of about $20 million.

"Every which way you can defraud somebody, it's taking place in the high-end art industry," Goldman said.

Federal prosecutors in Philadelphia say they've prosecuted about $100 million in art fraud in the past four years alone.

At Penn's museum Thursday, archeologist Clark Erickson described the pervasive looting that experts say has ravaged nearly all of Peru's ancient archaeological sites. The looters—locals who can make as much as $1,000 selling a sought-after find to middlemen—are increasingly market-savvy, switching their hunt from metals to textiles, for instance, as demand and prices change. *AP*



COPY of a drawing by Flemish painter Peter Paul Rubens, titled Crouching Man Seen from the Back, on exhibit from Jan. 14 to April 3 at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. AP

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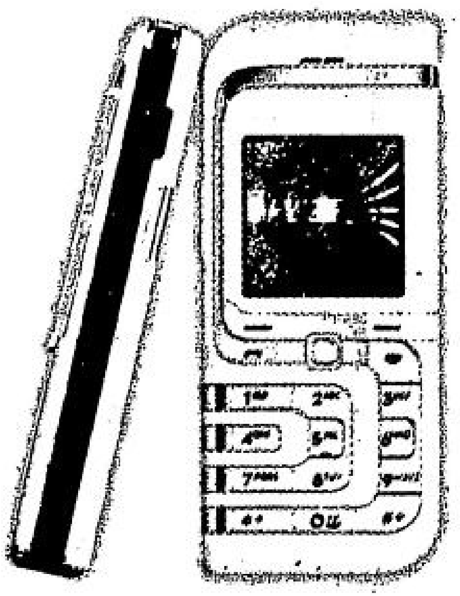

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1M Rwandans seen facing trial for involvement in 1994 genocide

KIGALI—An estimated 1 million Rwandans—an eighth of the population—are expected to be tried in traditional "gacaca" village courts for alleged participation in the 1994 genocide, an official said on Friday.

Domitilla Mukantaganzwa, executive secretary of the National Service of Gacaca Jurisdictions, said trials in some areas might start next month, with proceedings beginning in the rest of the country in 2006.

"Drawing from the experience and figures accruing from the pilot trials, we estimate a figure slightly above 1 million people that are supposed to be tried under the gacaca courts," she said.

Her comment indicates the vast scale of the task awaiting the courts, gearing up to hear accusations against hundreds of thousands of people now living at liberty, often alongside neighbors whose relatives they are suspected of killing.

The courts, a revamped version of a traditional form of justice, were launched in 2002 on an exploratory basis to speed up trials of suspects charged in conventional courts with taking part in the slaughter of 800,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus from April to June 1994.

Almost 11 years after the massacres, the backlog of suspects awaiting trial in conventional courts remains enormous.

There are 80,000 people behind bars and many would be likely to die before their cases would be heard under the existing justice system. Although many will be transferred eventually to gacaca courts for trial, exact numbers have not been decided.

In the past two years, thousands of other suspects have been questioned by 751 village courts, sitting as investigative panels, to see if there was a case to answer. Those sessions are now complete and trials resulting from these investigations might start in February 2005, Mukantaganzwa said.

On Monday, investigative hearings will be launched in a further 8,262 courts, she said, adding that trials in these courts would start only next year.

"The investigations have only been limited in the areas where pilot trials were held, but this time round (from Monday) the exercise will be rolled out to all parts of the country," Mukantaganzwa said. "We hope all this should be over by year end to have full trials commence (in 2006)."

Ringleaders of the killings, however, will be tried by conventional courts.

Focusing on confession and apology, the gacaca courts are also intended to ease the way to national reconciliation.

Under gacaca, those who confess and plead guilty before a set date will have their sentences reduced.

Gacaca (meaning grass) courts were traditionally used by village communities who would gather on a patch of grass to resolve conflicts between two families, employing the heads of each household as judges.

Critics have said the investigative panels convened so far have often appeared to lack order, and rights group Amnesty International has said that "gacaca may become a vehicle for summary and arbitrary justice that fails defendants and genocide survivors alike." *Reuters*

US advised to disallow sale of anticholesterol drug over the counter

PHOTO provided by Merck & Co. Inc. of their cholesterol drug Mevacor. AP

BETHESDA, Maryland—The US government has until next month to decide whether to allow over-the-counter sales of a cholesterol drug—something an advisory panel says is a bad idea, at least for now.

The safety of Mevacor is well-established, but advisers worried the wrong people might take it if sat on open drugstore shelves, particularly after an aggressive advertising campaign.

The panel voted 20-3 Friday to recommend against nonprescription sales that had been requested by a pair of drug companies.

Supporters argued that making Mevacor more easily available would help get needed treatment to millions of Americans at moderate risk of heart disease who needed to lower cholesterol levels but were not taking helpful drugs.

And several advisers said they liked the idea of wider availability of statins like Mevacor, which lower cholesterol by limiting the buildup of artery-clogging fat deposits and reduce risk of heart attack by about a third.

"There have been times in my career when I thought the statins ought to be in the drinking water," said Dr. Frank F. Davidoff, editor emeritus of Annals of Internal Medicine. But at this point, making them available over the counter "would be a massive, uncontrolled experiment," he said.

Studies that simulated over-the-counter sales indicated that 90 percent of people who took Mevacor didn't meet the requirements of the label. Some people were too young or not sick enough to need it. In other cases, the risk of heart disease was so high that the patients should have seen a doctor and received a stronger drug.

The panel advising the Food and Drug Administration, or FDA, also voiced concern that women who were pregnant and did not know it would take Mevacor and possibly damage the developing fetus.

The application was filed by Johnson & Johnson-Merck Consumer Pharmaceuticals Co., a joint venture set up to market over-the-counter versions of drugs with expiring patents.

The companies said in a statement they were disappointed by the decision but encouraged by the discussion and would work with the FDA toward getting the drug sold without prescription.

"We continue to believe in the benefits of Mevacor... as an over-the-counter medication to help lower cholesterol and contribute to improved overall public health," said spokesman Tony Plohoros.

The FDA, which rejected a similar application in 2000, isn't bound by its advisers' recommendations but usually follows them. The agency has been under intense scrutiny lately by critics who question whether it is vigilant enough in policing the safety of drugs already on the market. That criticism could weigh on the government as it makes a final decision.

The agency has until Feb. 24 to decide whether to continue the drug's prescription-only status.

As is, allowing over-the-counter sales for Mevacor would mark an unprecedented step. Unlike treatments for coughs, colds and allergies, Mevacor is meant to prevent future heart disease, rather than treat existing symptoms. And while a cough or cold is apparent, the only way to know one's cholesterol level is to be tested. *AP*

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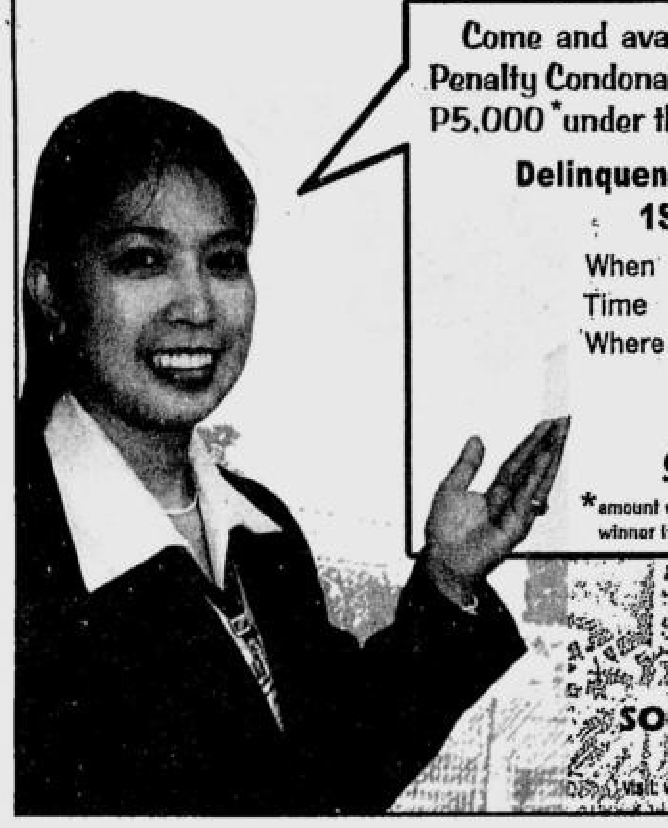

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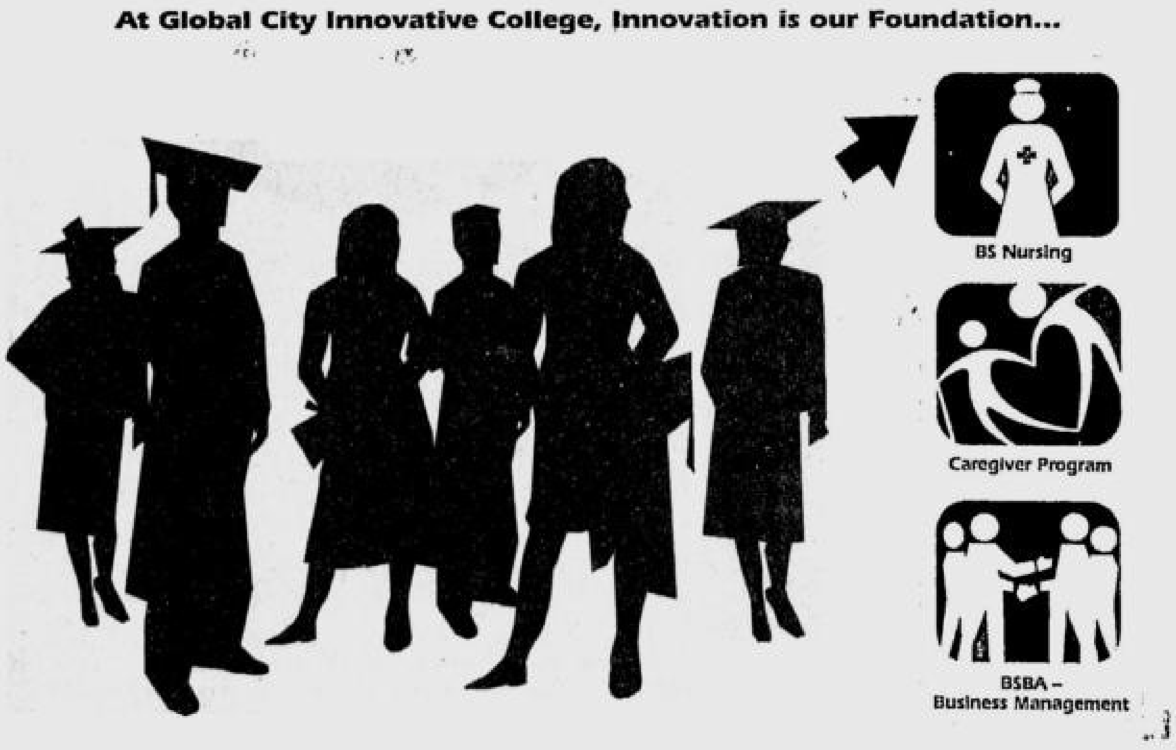

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Israel cuts ties with Palestinians as Abbas sworn in

JERUSALEM—Mahmoud Abbas's inauguration to succeed Yasser Arafat on Saturday will be overshadowed by Israel's decision to cut ties with the new Palestinian president after a militant attack that killed six Israelis.

"Israel is severing all planned contacts with the Palestinians on all levels, from security to government leadership," a spokesperson for Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said.

Palestinian Prime Minister Ahmed Qorie said the Israeli decision was an excuse not to resume peace talks with the new administration under Abbas, who was elected following Arafat's death on Nov. 11.

"This is a wrong decision and shows that Israel is trying to find any excuse to disrupt any serious effort that leads to reviving the peace process and to achieving calm," Qorie said.

Qorie blamed extreme factions on both sides who he said wanted to disrupt a resumption of negotiations.

"There are parties on both the Palestinian and Israeli sides who want to obstruct attempts to restart peace moves and achieve calm. So it is wrong to seize any opportunity to justify taking that path," he said.

Palestinian Minister of Negotiation Affairs Saeb Erekat said Israeli officials had called him to relay Sharon's decision to Abbas, who has said he wants to talk militants into ending violence rather than confront them.

Defying Abbas' calls for non-violence, militants from three Palestinian groups, including one belonging to his Fatah faction, carried out a bombing and shooting attack at the Karni cargo terminal between Israel and Gaza on Thursday.

Six Israelis and three Palestinian gunmen were killed in the assault at Gaza's main economic lifeline, the deadliest strike by militants in Gaza in a month.

Abbas condemned both the militants' assault and Israeli raids on militants, saying on Friday the violence did not "benefit peace."

The United States lined up behind Israel.

"The new (Palestinian) president... (has) got to get these terrorists under control," US Secretary of State Colin Powell told Radio America.

"And what Prime Minister Sharon did today by temporarily, I hope, keeping contacts from taking place is once again say to the Palestinians, 'I want to be a partner for peace. I want to move forward and I welcome the election of (Abbas) but you've got to get these terrorists under control.'"

Prospects for an end to four years of bloodshed appeared to brighten when Sharon called Abbas earlier this week to congratulate him on his victory in last Sunday's election.

It was the highest-level contact between the two sides in years. Israel had shunned Arafat, accusing him of fomenting violence, an allegation he always denied. *Reuters*

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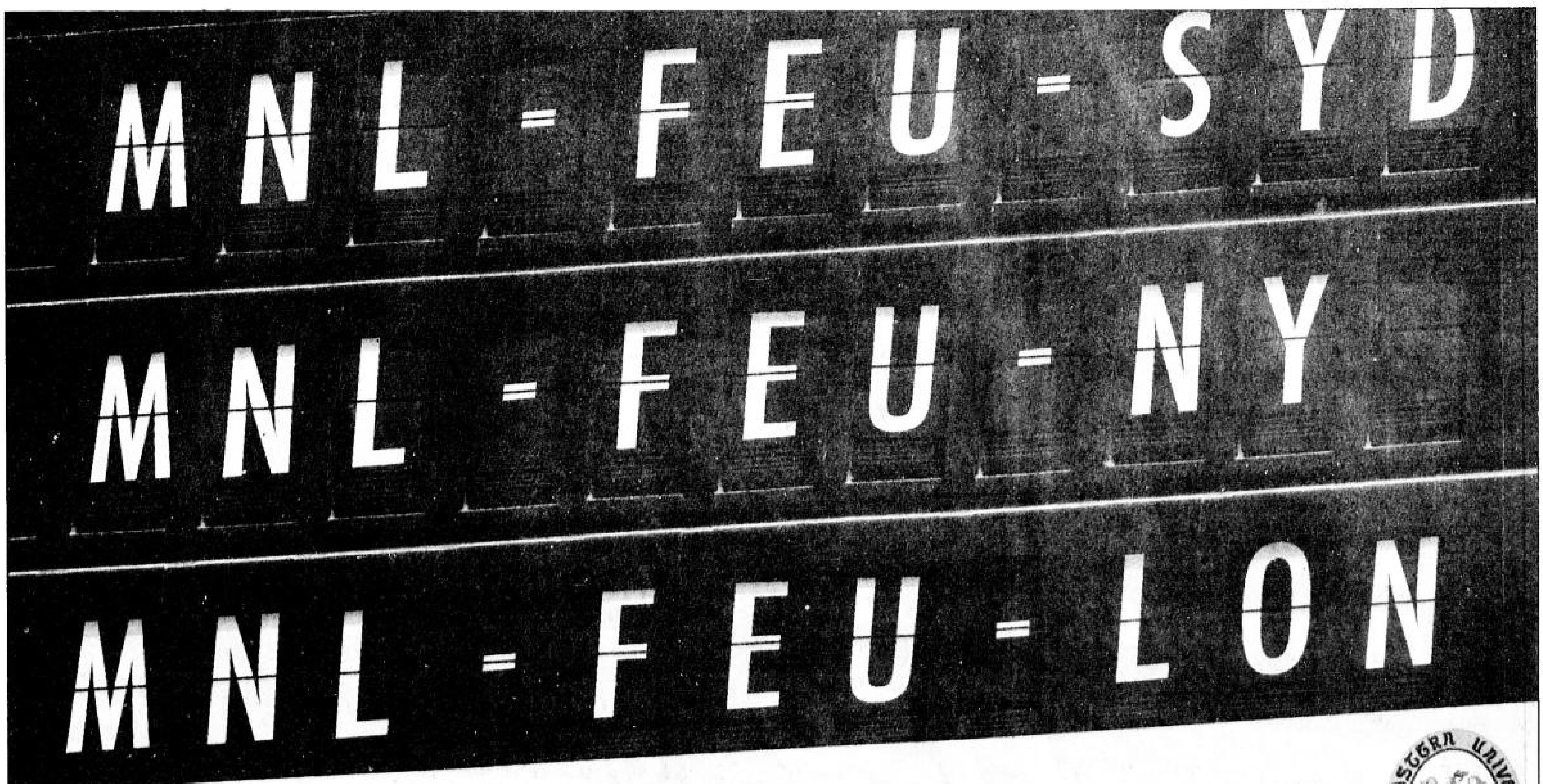

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High on publicity

EDITORIAL

THE GOVERNMENT has an addiction problem; it is addicted to law enforcement by publicity. Consider the case of illegal drugs, the country's worst law-enforcement problem. Last year, the anti-illegal drugs campaign seized over P8.3 billion in methamphetamine hydrochloride, in 21 high-profile raids on shabu laboratories or storage facilities. But, if Rep. Antonio Cuenco is right, only one of the raids resulted in criminal charges against suspected laboratory owners or syndicate masterminds.

In other words, despite all the hype, the raids left the suspected owners or masterminds untouched, free to start plying their trade again. As with other addictions, the government's fatal weakness revealed its most serious consequences only after the fact.

"Is this an inadvertent mistake of our law enforcement agents? A mere lapse of our country's prosecutors? [Or] Is there a sleight of hand by the masterminds?" asked Cuenco, the chair of the House oversight committee on dangerous drugs, in a press statement. "I am enraged why the remaining cases, mostly in Metro Manila, did not include the filing of raps against the owners of these laboratories and facilities when they are clearly liable as accomplices at the very least."

Twenty out of 21? We do not think such a large-scale failure can be explained by mere inadvertence. Cuenco suspects collusion, between the owners and masterminds, on the one hand; and "slipshod prosecutors and rogue drug enforcement agents," on the other.

But Cuenco is a Cebu politician, and because the only drug raid last year that threw the book at the owners themselves happened in Mandaue City, his reading of the situation is colored by Cebu politics. He proposed, for instance, that the government "use the Cebu style of prosecuting drug cases, if Manila lacks one or if it wants a reinforced model in dealing with these cases."

The Mandaue bust seized at least P1.3 billion of shabu, and led to the arrest of Calvin de Jesus Tan, the alleged mastermind, in Hong Kong, where he had fled and is now facing extradition. Thus, at first glance, Cuenco's regionalism may have something to it. The political leadership in Cebu has not yet recovered from the stigma of hosting one of the largest shabu laboratories in all of Southeast Asia; this helps explain why there was no lack of political will in pursuing the owners.

In contrast, authorities elsewhere may have already been inured to the high-profile raids. "Here in Manila and elsewhere, we do not only fail to implead them [the suspected owners or masterminds], some names were even reported to have been expunged from the list," Cuenco said.

But is there anything particularly Cebuano about the handling of the Mandaue case?

We hope not, because otherwise the slippery slope to Colombia-hood becomes even steeper than any of us would like.

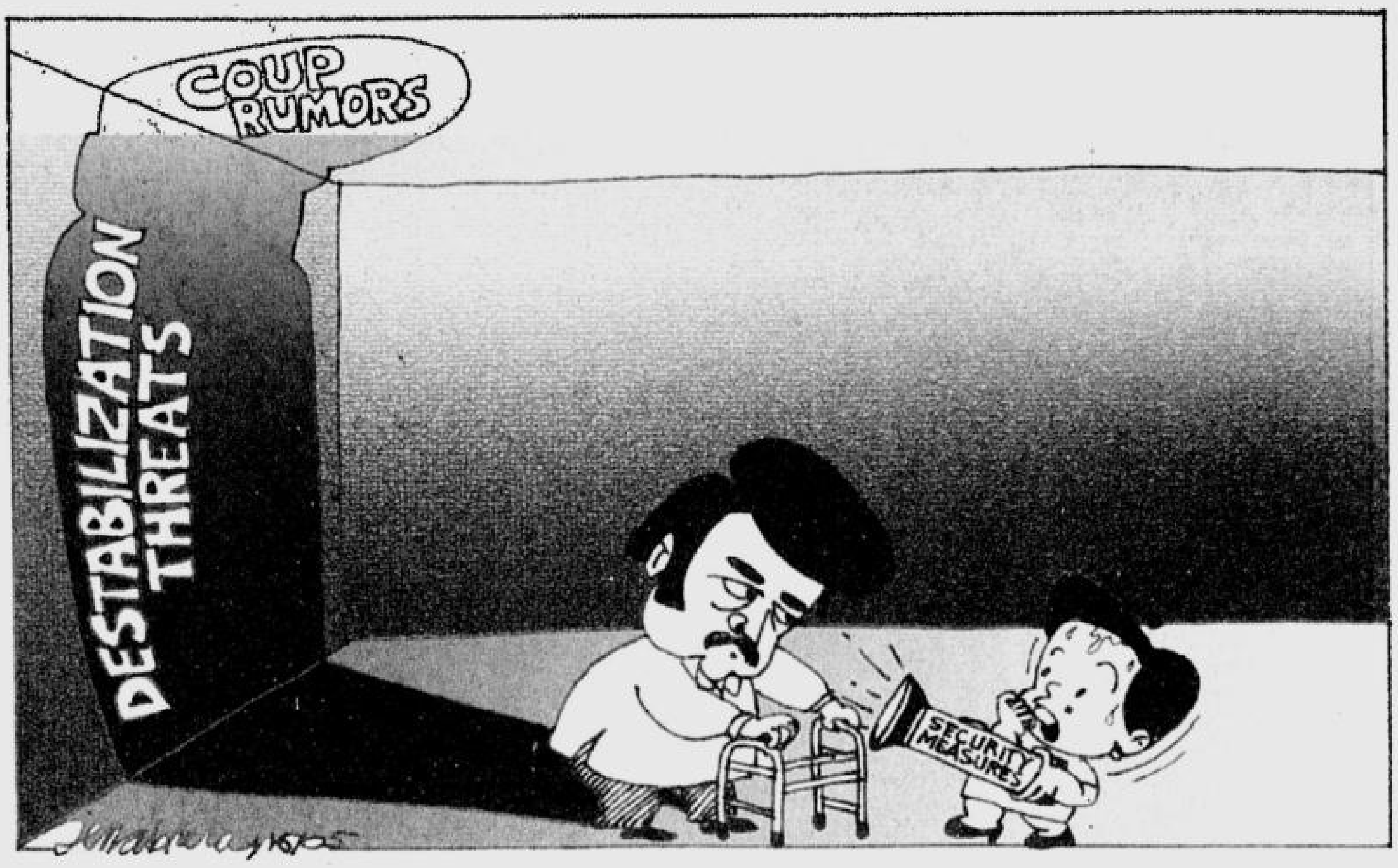
Granted, it is not the easiest thing in the world to gather compelling evidence against criminal masterminds. And intense public pressure can lead to fabricated evidence, a shortcut that weakens the administration of justice in the long run. But surely the government has other resources it can bring to bear on the problem.

For one thing, the deep investigative work that precedes a raid does not take place in a vacuum; sources will talk not only about location, for instance, but ownership as well. It is not unlikely that even rumors or hints of ownership will fit into a pattern, which the authorities can then act on.

For another, the Department of Justice can look for state witnesses aggressively, with the principal objective never out of mind: to lock away those who have the money to fund the laboratories. A shabu capitalist in hand is better than a hundred pushers in the bushes of detention.

For a third, the government can break its dependence on law enforcement by publicity. Or rather, it must not stop with photos of the latest drug raid. Instead, it must regard the filing of solidly-backed charges against the suspected owners or alleged masterminds as the real milestone in the anti-illegal drugs campaign.

Through it all, the congressional oversight committee can continue to keep score—not of raids, but of convictions.



Compassion for the tsunami victims

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

AS usual, President Bush reacted tardily to the tsunami disaster even if the rest of the world was already overcome with sadness and disbelief over the tragedy that had claimed the lives of more than 150,000 victims. It had also taken him some time before he joined the grief and anger of the American nation, of which he was the head, over the terrorist attack on the Twin Towers and the Pentagon on September 11, 2001. His delay this second time was characteristic and not unexpected.

Bush was also criticized for initially offering American aid to the victims in the paltry sum of $35 million, which he immediately raised to $350 million, probably not without some embarrassment over his stinginess. Even that was hardly respectable, according to Fareed Zakaria of Newsweek, considering that federal aid extended to Florida for damage caused by the relatively "minor" hurricanes that had visited it last year amounted to $13 billion. By contrast, the latest report is that America has pledged (pledged only, not actually given) only $2 billion to the 11 countries ravaged by the tsunami.

The governor of Florida is Dubya's brother, Jeb. Many people also observed that the many countries devastated by the tsunami were not members of the Coalition of the Willing that supported the US invasion of Iraq. This may have been one other reason why the American president was not so ready to give the afflicted lands the tremendous and affordable assistance of the United States as the economic and political leader of the free world.

It is gratifying, though, that notwithstanding the official stand of the US government, the American people have displayed enormous sympathy and are giving considerable material assistance to the thousands of casualties, mostly Asians, from the angry waters of the tsunami. They are acting on their own, independently of the Bush administration, as private individuals touched by the sorrow of the disaster victims and anxious to mitigate their plight.

Unlike their government, the Americans are by nature friendly and generous without the arrogance of the French and the mercenariness of the Chinese. The people and government of the United States do not have the same sentiments of charity and compassion for the less fortunate peoples of the world.

Especially heartwarming was the contribution of $1 million immediately and voluntarily offered the tsunami casualties by Sandra Bullock, who had earlier given an equal amount to the victims or their families of the 9/11 attacks in 2001. The screen star did not hesitate to share her wealth and selflessness with the unfortunates who had suffered from the recent tragedies. Americans of less stature and fortune have been similarly motivated, giving what they can afford to alleviate the sufferings of the stricken people across the Pacific whom they do not even know. Their generosity is a psalm of praise for the human spirit.

Typhoons and floods inflicted their own damage on our country during the year just ended, and our people willingly gave their aid to the thousands of men, women and children devastated by these calamities. Desolated by the disaster that has befallen our neighboring countries, we are digging deeper into our pockets to share what little we can still spare for the benefit of our fellow Asians abroad who need our assistance and sympathy. This speaks well of the Filipino people, whose kindness does not recognize racial or geographical boundaries and is extended in full if meager measure to those who need our help.

Even as we mourn our own losses, we also share the grief of the thousands of people devastated by the tsunami and deprived of their lives, their families, their houses and other properties, and their hopes for the suddenly uncertain future. The fact that they are mostly not Christians like us has not deterred us from offering our helping hand, remembering what Jesus said in "The Vision of Sir Launfal": "Who gives himself with his alms feeds three: himself, his hungering neighbor, and Me."

Let us thank the Almighty for sparing our country from the terrible rage of the tsunami. It should remind us that despite the breathtaking advances of the world in science and technology, the forces of nature can still prove their overpowering supremacy over puny man, as they did three weeks ago. The inhabitants of this planet may have various faiths, follow separate religions and revere their Creator by different names. But we all worship the same universal and eternal God who guides the destinies of men and nations "in mysterious ways, His wonders to perform."

Greatness

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

I REMEMBER the story about a young priest who visited an old priest in our retirement house. Upon seeing him, the old priest asked who he was. "I'm Bobby, Father," he said.

Being hard of hearing, the old priest asked him again who he was. He kept saying "I'm Bobby, Father," all the time pointing to himself. After seeing him do the same thing over and over again, the old priest said, "Is something wrong with your chest?"

* * *

Today, on the Feast of Sto. Niño, the Lord reminds us again that the greatest in the kingdom of heaven are those who humble themselves like little children. (Mt. 18, 1-5; 10) Inversely, those who keep pointing to themselves, those who are proud, are the least in the kingdom of heaven. More than ever, we need to learn humility once again. Only if we humble ourselves before God and before one another again can there be healing in our hearts, in our families, in our relationships, in our country, in our world.

* * *

Something is definitely wrong with a person who keeps on pointing to himself/herself. Pride is prison, and how many people are so locked up in themselves these days? What is your prison? What is it that you lock out and lock in? A person in prison, though walled in, is ironically a very insecure person. The key to freedom from prisons outside and inside us is humility, the acceptance of our limitations, and the acceptance of our need for God and for other people. Humility leads to honesty, which leads to the truth, which hurts but sets us free. Take the road of humility and honesty, and you will be free.

* * *

Let us learn from the children. They know they are helpless and powerless, that's why they know how to be humble. They know they don't have power, that's why it is easy for them to let go, to let be and to let God. The problem is when somebody gets to taste power and allows himself or herself to be enslaved by power. I pray that those in power and those who are blinded by power be enlightened. May they be exorcised of their selfish agenda and ambitions. Instead of position, may our leaders think more of mission. Instead of ambition, may our leaders think more of true service for the good of the nation.

* * *

I am sad that many of our leaders "despise the little ones" with gimmickry and manipulations. They take advantage of the poverty and ignorance of the "little ones." It is the poor, the uneducated and the voiceless who are often used and abused by our political leaders. But, be warned. The "little ones" are not stupid. They know. They feel. They will have their day. They will have their time. Do not agitate, do not test, do not play with the lives and feelings of the little ones.

* * *

Let us think of the children. It is they who will come after us. It is they who will inherit what we do or undo in our lifetime. Children are there to remind us that life is short, and that we should be busy preparing for their future by doing our very best now. Pity not the children who don't have much to their name. Pity rather the children who will suffer the shame connected to their name because of their parents' wrongdoing.

* * *

The natural order of things is that children bury their parents. How painful it is when a parent is the one to bury a child. Such was the case of Miggy Baluyot who died of stomach cancer at the young age of 28, and who was set to marry Grace this Feb. 5. There are so many questions in our mind; there are so many things beyond our control in this life. Again, may we all be given the grace to accept them all humbly, like a child.

* * *

I've officiated many weddings, but the 50th wedding anniversary of Peping and Rose Calimquim of Urdaneta, Pangasinan was one of a kind. Simultaneous with their renewal of vows was the church wedding of their four children! It was quite an experience to see the whole family gather before the Lord to receive His blessing. It was a beautiful reminder that, indeed, God makes all things beautiful in His time.

* * *

"A dream is a wish your heart makes when you're fast asleep," so a song goes. I've always dreamt of seeing Batanes, and this dream will be fulfilled when I go there with some pilgrims this Jan. 26-28. There are still some slots available. Those interested to join, please call 523-85-81 to 88.

* * *

Your dreams as a child, have they come true? Your parents' dream for you, have they come true? God's dreams for you, have they, too, come true?

* * *

We are on Channel 23 (Studio 23) now every Sunday at 7 a.m. for a simple Sunday TV Mass and an interview to deepen the laity's understanding of the Sunday Gospel. Our guests next Sunday, Jan. 23 will be Fr. Ambo David and engineer Bong David, brothers of INQUIRER columnist Randy David.

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, remind me that greatness is not so much about power and wealth, but about humility, honesty and goodness. Amen.

Be wary of ceasefires

REVEILLE

Ramon J. Farolan

LAST week, aside from Erap's making whoopee in Hong Kong after a successful knee operation, the big news was that fierce fighting had once again broken out in Maguindanao between the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and government forces. This notwithstanding that a so-called "ceasefire" was in place. Reports indicated that 17 MILF rebels and seven government troopers were killed in the clashes. An international monitoring team, consisting of observers from Brunei, Malaysia and Libya, is now in the area conducting an investigation of the incident and working to limit the conflict and restore some semblance of order. In case we in Metro Manila have forgotten, there's a shooting war out there and people are getting killed.

The recent outbreak of hostilities should remind all of us that this long-playing conflict—just like the Israeli-Palestinian battle, the Northern Ireland dispute and the Indian-Pakistan hostilities over Kashmir—is not any closer to a solution regardless of how many peace talks are being conducted or how many peace documents have been signed. The last one was sealed and signed at Malacañang only a few years ago amid much pomp and publicity. Now, nobody remembers what it was all about. Perhaps the only beneficiary was former President Fidel V. Ramos who got some international mileage for his efforts in bringing the protagonists to the negotiating table. Yesterday it was the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF); today it is the MILF. A few years from now a different acronym will be used but the fight will continue over the same issues.

Our readers should be reminded of a few things concerning the MILF. The late Gen. Arturo Enrile, a former AFP chief of staff, once said: "The MILF has a one-track mind. It not only wants Mindanao for itself. It wants to turn the island into an Islamic state." This is true today as it was more than 10 years ago. The MILF objective remains the same: it aims to establish a truly Islamic government in the Bangsa Moro homeland. The configuration of the geographical territory of the Bangsa Moro state may be subject to negotiations, but what is non-negotiable is the setting up of an independent Islamic authority in Mindanao. And this can be attained only by the overthrow of the existing power structure in the region.

We should also remember the lesson of Camp Abubakar located in Maguindanao. What developed in Abubakar is a good example of what happens when we play blind to MILF activities in the hope that the peace negotiations will bear fruit. For years, because of the fear of irritating or alienating the MILF rebels and because of the desire to keep them at the peace table, the national leadership allowed them to maintain Camp Abubakar as an exclusive enclave for their forces. The camp was virtually untouchable, with heavily armed checkpoints controlling entry and exit into Abubakar. It was off-limits to Philippine officialdom, both military and civilian.

As I mentioned in an earlier piece, within the complex, the MILF established its own justice system, its own schools, even a military academy for training its armed elements. For all intents and purposes, it was foreign territory administered by the MILF in accordance with its laws and regulations. And this was tolerated, all in the name of keeping the peace, the peace of the blind and the deaf.

When we allowed the MILF to run Abubakar as it wished, it was taken as a sign of weakness, as an indication that we were soft and would accept any arrangement for the sake of peace. The MILF moved to strengthen its position while making a mockery of the peace process.

One of the sensible developments during former President Estrada's short stay in office was the order to reoccupy and dismantle Camp Abubakar and restore government control over the area.

The recent fighting also brought to mind an incident during an earlier ceasefire period. It was in November 1998. Lt Ronaldo Cauilan, PMA Class of 1993, was a platoon leader wit the 301st Army brigade in Cotabato. Cauilan and another soldier were on board their motorcycle out to verify the presence of armed elements in a neighboring barangay. They were abducted by MILF rebels manning a checkpoint along the national highway connecting Cotabato to General Santos City. The rebels had in their custody two other soldiers and a number of civilians who were hostaged earlier. While the civilians were released, the four military personnel were brutally tortured, shot several times at close range and the bodies dumped in a river where they were found three days later. In the case of Lieutenant Cauilan, the official autopsy conducted by the Medico-Legal Division of the National Bureau of Investigation at the Provincial Health Office in Sultan Kudarat indicated mutilation of the face, multiple stab wounds in different parts of the body and multiple gunshot wounds in the back. All in all, 14 gunshot wounds were inflicted on the victim.

This heinous crime happened in an area occupied by the MILF during a "ceasefire" period. The perpetrators were never brought to justice. Probably another example of not wanting to rock the boat in the face of continuing peace negotiations.

* * *

One last word about ceasefires. Make no mistake—the enemy will use them to strengthen and fortify their positions. While our people yearn for peace and welcome initiatives which offer some hope for the future, we must remain vigilant; and above all—while we listen—we must not be paralyzed into withholding action by fear of what the critics may say.

A room of one's own

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

FOR my 50th birthday (there, I've admitted it in public!), my sweet Tita Chul, youngest sister of my Papa, gifted me with wine, a breadbasket and a cheese board and an offering of books from other people. One book, "Women of Tammuz," was from novelist Azucena Grajo Uranza, a distant relative of ours who completed her tetralogy of novels on Philippine history with this volume. Three other books came as a packet "from a fan," as Tita Chul mysteriously put it. One of them came tightly wrapped in durable paper with the cryptic inscription: "An old book on Feminism…"

I never got the "fan's" identity from my aunt, but the book on feminism turned out to be a copy of "Feminism: The Essential Historical Writings," edited by Miriam Schneir (Vintage Books, 1972).

The book contains essays, fiction, memoirs and letters by "the major feminist writers," including several men; and it shows a bias toward American writers and activists. An exception proved to be Virginia Woolf, who was British, and was represented in the book by her essay "A Room of One's Own." I have not read the essay in full before, though I was familiar with its most famous line: "A woman must have money and a room of her own if she is to write fiction."

I felt drawn to the essay, the final selection in the book, because, of course, I am a woman writer—but only of opinion and not of fiction—and also because I have recently been gifted with a room of my own.

* * *

WE call the room my "office," salvaged from our garage which used to be a storeroom for all sorts of household junk, and which now houses my "working" books (for lack of space, the ones my family reads for pleasure have been banished to another corner of our home), my formerly helter-skelter files, my very own wooden desk and all the technology a writer in this day and age needs or thinks she needs: fax machine, printer, scanner and laptop.

I have always loved those scenes in mystery thrillers, where a detective enters a victim's or suspect's home and tries to discern the personality, passions and perversities of the person from the titles on the book shelves. Just now, gazing at my (for now) orderly row of bookshelves crammed with books, I wonder what conclusions a stranger would draw from the titles displayed. Of course, there are books on my abiding passions: the women's movement, feminism, reproductive health, children, journalism. But there are also books on other interests: history, travel, literature and a boxed set of writings on sex called, of course, "The Sex Box."

What sort of woman do my books say I am? That I am a feminist, journalist, wife and mother. With an interest in history and literature. Who travels a lot. And who enjoys sex (or at least reading about it!). At 50, one can't ask for a better summation of one's life so far, right?

* * *

BUT my family and friends have not spared this "room of my own" from their commentary.

"Are you going to run for barangay chairman?" relatives wanted to know. They then drew up scenarios of our neighbors' queuing before my door, with battered women sobbing into my laptop, begging for help. Well, I do get my share of sob stories, but that's not why I got this room.

The reason, if you must know, is that my work as a columnist, particularly the constant flow of paper that accompanies it, had long overstepped the invisible boundaries of my workspace in the conjugal bedroom. I had a huge desk and generous counterspace, not to mention cabinets to hold my books and files. But every inch of available space have been colonized by papers that had flitted in like errant pigeons each time I would return from a conference, or pass by the INQUIRER to pick up my mail.

This room then is as much banishment as shelter. We needed a place for the flocks of paper to roost in, so the bedroom could return to its original function as a place for rest, recreation and escape from the workday world.

But in this place of banishment, I also harbor hopes of generating not just reams of paper—press releases, letters, newsletters, research studies, newspaper clippings that constitute the basis for much of my material—but real fruits of honest labor. In this place of quiet and order (at least, for now), the writer in me hopes words will come with ease and felicity. It is space and silence I crave, not more public involvement and a queue of supplicants!

* * *

IT is not just space and freedom, and material security that Virginia Woolf meant when she issued her famous dictum. I would like to believe that her prescription for women writers also called for quiet and introspection, the luxury of shutting off the world from time to time, and the privilege of putting one's art, or work, or vocation, before anything else, including family, without being assailed by guilt or self-loathing.

As Woolf put it: "…if we have the habit of freedom and the courage to write exactly what we think; if we escape a little from the common sitting-room and see human beings not always in their relation to each other but in relation to reality; and the sky, too, and the trees or whatever it may be in themselves;…if we face the fact, for it is a fact, that there is no arm to cling to, but that we go alone and that our relation is to the world of reality and not to the world of men and women, then the opportunity will come…"

A journalist is trained to think and write amid any number of distractions, even falling bombs. But there comes a time when quiet—even if only in one's mind—becomes necessary for creation. And a room of one's own greatly helps create that state of quiet and peace.

Rationalization

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

THE WORD has crept in quietly in recent discussions about administrative and fiscal reforms. If taken seriously, it could spell the beginning of political modernity in our country. The vigor with which it is being opposed is an indicator of the staying power of obsolete interests. It shows us that corruption in our society is not a cultural flaw, but a basic ingredient of our political system.

Rationalization simply means altering existing policies and procedures in order to make them more efficient in the attainment of the state's avowed goals. Its most important objective is the elimination of sources of unearned income from the national life. "Rents," as these incomes are sometimes referred to, are of many kinds, but the most prevalent are those that are extracted and dispensed at will by public officials at all levels of the state. The German thinker Max Weber called rents "the economic basis of all aristocracies." In our own time, rents are the social basis of "crony capitalism."

When a friend or ally of a public official is given an accommodation such as a huge loan from a government financial institution, we call that a rent. "Behest loans," as they were once called, did not end with Marcos. Like logging concessions, they continue to be dispensed as part of the spoils of politics. When some favored ally is given exclusive rights to import a certain commodity, that too is rent. When the president orders the government's social security agencies to invest public pension funds in shares of stocks owned by a friend, and then collects commissions, that is rent-seeking.

Money given by gambling lords to authorities so they won't be touched is also rent. When budgetary allocations are released in exchange for favors, that is rent-seeking. When political donors are exempted or given special treatment by revenue laws, rent is also created.

Rent is what we may also call tax breaks or tax incentives that are given to the well-connected, independently of performance, and almost without expiry dates. There are presently more than a hundred existing Philippine laws that grant such duty and tax exemptions to a large assortment of enterprises and individuals. They are very costly in terms of taxes foregone. This is not to say that such special incentives or exemptions are all bad. Indeed, some of them are necessary to encourage investors to develop sectors of the economy that are either very risky or require enormous amounts of capital. The perks are given in exchange for enduring contributions to society's development objectives. But for these incentives not to degenerate into rents, they must be time-bound and linked to performance.

It is ironic, but not unexpected, that the recent legislative deliberations on the bill seeking the rationalization of such special incentives became the occasion for intense lobbying by congressmen on behalf of the particularistic interests they represent. We earlier saw this behavior in the debate on the cigarette and liquor tax. The same kind of lobbying is likely to mark the discussion of the bill seeking to raise the VAT by 2 percent and remove the exemptions from its coverage. Unless the voices of reason prevail—and one doubts this very much given the composition of the congressional majority—these attempts to set things right will eventually succumb to the overwhelming power of rent. The event will thus confirm Thomas McHale's 1959 description of the Philippines as a country where "business is born, and flourishes or fails, not so much in the market place as in the halls of the legislature or in the administrative offices of the government."

"Booty Capitalism," a book published by the Ateneo Press (1998), takes off from this insight. In it, the author, Paul Hutchcroft, identified the basic elements of this phenomenon as it exists in the Philippines: "(1) the high degree of favoritism, as when oligarchs and cronies plunder the state apparatus for particularistic advantage—a feature some have characterized as 'rent-seeking gone wild'; and (2) the capacity of those oligarchs currently holding official position to inflict punishment on their enemies." Hutchcroft provides a useful distinction between bureaucratic capitalism, in which "bureaucratic elite extracts privilege from a weak business class," and booty capitalism, where "a powerful business class extracts privilege from a largely incoherent bureaucracy."

The word "booty" emphasizes both the plunderous ways of Philippine capitalism and the violence that usually marks the scramble for booty. The principal protagonists in this struggle are the family-based oligarchies that have an economic base outside the state but need the resources of the state to accumulate wealth. They are the main sources of political contributions during elections, and in many ways, politicians and public officials are nothing more than their paid agents. As a captive institution, the booty capitalist state can play neither a regulatory nor a developmental role.

Under these conditions, Philippine politics is reduced to a cyclical struggle between the oligarchical "ins" and the oligarchical "outs," with the masses and the middle classes serving as their cannon fodder. Rationalization is the state's desperate attempt to distance itself from the oligarchy, an idea whose time has come, but, without a constituency, is bound to fail.

* * *

Comments to davidinquirer@yahoo.com

Wounded pride

COMMENTARY

Raul J. Palabrica

WHAT kind of spell do the plunder and perjury cases against former President Joseph Estrada have that the Sandiganbayan justices who had presided over his trial seem to have been hounded by not-too-good luck?

A year after the hearing started in 2001, the chair of the division to which the cases were assigned, then Justice Anacleto Badoy, was hospitalized for a serious illness. This incident, plus his past behavioral gaffes, prompted the Supreme Court to create a special division to resolve the politically sensitive cases.

Later, the head of the panel, Justice Minita Chico-Nazario, was appointed to the Supreme Court in February 2004, only to be told that her appointment would not push through because of some obscure reasons. To her credit, Nazario did not make a fuss about her aborted promotion. She kept her frustration to herself. Five months later, she took her oath as member of the highest tribunal.

Her successor, Justice Edilberto Sandoval, appears to be treading the same path. He wanted to resign from the post for health reasons, but the tribunal turned down his request. Apparently, the high court is convinced that his desire to give up that assignment is motivated by considerations other than medical.

In compliance with the tribunal's order, Sandoval will retake his seat in the special division; this time, only as a member, no longer its chair, because that position is reserved for recently appointed Sandiganbayan Presiding Justice Teresita de Castro

The tribunal cannot be faulted for doubting the validity of the excuse raised by Sandoval to excuse himself from the trial. In several media interviews, he intimated that his resignation was influenced by his failure to get the top post of the anti-graft court.

Personal pique

Sandoval felt his 22 years of service in the judiciary—compared to De Castro's seven years (although she has been with the government in various capacities for 31 years)—should have given him the inside track for that position. Obviously, the President did not give premium to seniority in the bench and took into consideration other factors in appointing De Castro instead of Sandoval or Justice Gregory Ong who was also nominated by the Judicial and Bar Council.

Sandoval's disappointment is understandable. Aside from being Numero Uno in the anti-graft court, its presiding justice enjoys the rank and privileges of an associate justice of the Supreme Court. Like its counterpart in the Court of Appeals, the head of the Sandiganbayan gets "preferential treatment" in filling up vacancies in the highest court.

A seat in the tribunal is the ultimate dream of lawyers who join the judiciary. They will endure long hours of work, low pay and poor working conditions in expectation of the opportunity to be one of the 15 men and women who have the last say on the interpretation of our laws.

But as a veteran in the judicial service, Sandoval knows that seniority is only one of the criteria that the appointing authority applies in deciding on who should or should not be appointed to occupy a seat in the judiciary or hold its top posts. The standards also include intellectual competence, integrity and, in the case of leadership positions, managerial ability.

Repeated bypass

If the Constitution intended to make seniority the singular basis for appointment to key positions in the judiciary, it would have removed the appointing power from the president and simply used the service records of the aspiring parties as the sole determining factor in filling up vacancies.

While it is true that giving weight to seniority can be considered a form of reward for people who have spent the best years of their lives in government, that should not be done at the expense of limiting the range of choice of the appointing authority. After all, nobody can claim a monopoly of expertise and good intentions in the public service.

Getting bypassed or ignored in the promotion process in spite of long years of service is not new in the judiciary. It is something that most judges and justices consider part of the "risks" of joining a branch of government where the president enjoys wide latitude in naming its members.

There is virtue in accepting this reality. Past events have shown that life has its compensation for His Honor who exercises restraint and patience when he goes through this kind of frustration.

If it's any consolation to Sandoval, he is in good company with that feeling of disappointment. During the martial law years, Supreme Court Associate Justice Claudio Teehankee went through that experience thrice. Although he was the most senior member of the tribunal, on the three times that the position of chief justice became vacant, then President Marcos passed him over in favor of junior justices.

The reason was obvious: Teehankee had an independent mind and there was no way Marcos, during his rule, would allow a chief justice who would not follow his dictates. Marcos needed a compliant tribunal to give his authoritarian regime a color of legitimacy.

Patience

Teehankee took the rebuffs in stride. He did not quit. He continued to be the conscience of a tribunal that gave everything Marcos asked for. Teehankee had his just reward when, after Marcos fell from power in 1986, President Cory Aquino appointed him to the post that eluded him for years.

Of more recent vintage is the case of Supreme Court Associate Justice Cancio Garcia. While he was then the most senior member of the Court of Appeals, he was skipped over three times in the appointment of its presiding justice. His junior colleagues got the nod of the appointing power at the time the vacancies arose.

No doubt, Garcia felt bad about losing the race for the top post. It would have been unnatural if he did not. But instead of raving and ranting over his frustration, he rolled with the punches and took the setbacks as par for the course in his chosen field of service.

As fate would have it, he was eventually promoted to that position. Later, when a seat in the Supreme Court became available, President Macapagal-Arroyo named him to fill up that vacancy.

It is not the end of the road for Sandoval. The good karma for his service in the judiciary will come at its appointed time. Some things simply can't be hurried up in this world.

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TALK of the TOWN

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Editor Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

Who are the real agents of change?

WHO are the real agents of change in the Left?" was one of the three questions Talk of the Town asked the party-list group Akbayan and Jose Maria Sison, founding chair of the Communist Party of the Philippines, when it requested them to write an article for this section.

They were also asked to answer the questions "What are the ideological, political and methodological differences between Akbayan and the CPP?" and "Is the diagram of 'counterrevolutionaries' in the Dec. 7, 2004 issue of Ang Bayan a hit list?"

We are printing the diagram to give readers all the names of individuals and groups, including Akbayan, that the CPP considers counterrevolutionaries.

These activists once belonged to the broad united front against the Marcos dictatorship, but have broken away from the CPP and its allied organizations since the 1990s. They, however, are still united by the idea that Philippine society, which is marked by inequality and poverty, should be changed. As someone said: "The philosophers so far have only interpreted the world: the point is to change it."

The CPP is waging a protracted people's war to overthrow the system, while groups like Akbayan are working within the system through electoral struggle to change it.

Their differences extend to the interpretation of the Ang Bayan diagram. Akbayan claims that the roster of "counterrevolutionaries" is a hit list because two of those named had been assassinated by CPP operatives. Sison says that the diagram is a mere representation of anti-communist grouplets and their ties to Trotskyite and social democratic groups abroad.

Akbayan represents a resurgent democratic Left

By Ronald Llamas and Risa Hontiveros-Baraquel

In the Dec. 7, 2004 issue of Ang Bayan, the official publication of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), three leaders of Akbayan! (Citizens' Action Party) are included in a diagram of "counterrevolutionary" groups and individuals: Walden Bello, chair emeritus of the party; Loretta Ann Rosales, one of our three representatives in Congress; and Ric Reyes, our current chair. They were listed alongside nine other individuals who are either living or dead. Two of those on the list of "counterrevolutionaries," Arturo Tabara and Filemon Lagman, had been assassinated, the former just three months ago.

For people acquainted with the behavior of the CPP, its paramilitary wing, the New People's Army (NPA), and its political front, the National Democratic Front (NDF), the message of the list to Bello, Rosales, and Reyes was unmistakable: You're as good as dead. You're an "enemy of the revolution" that needs to be eliminated, and the only question remaining is when and where the party will carry out the execution.

Cover-up

Upon exposing the hit list in the media, Bello and Rosales were predictably subjected to a stream of scurrilous attacks by Jose Maria Sison, founding chair of the CPP, and Fidel Agcaoili, a senior CPP/NDF official. They were accused of, among other things, receiving "funds from imperialist agencies," "stealing funds" from Congress, and conspiring with the Philippine military and the US Central Intelligence Agency to set up Sison for "elimination."

These charges do not merit a serious reply. Bello, a recipient of the Alternative Nobel Prize, has a sterling record as an international activist against US militarism and corporate-driven globalization, while Rosales has a solid reputation as a fighter for human rights and good governance.

In his effort to bury the evidence, Sison skewered himself on his own contradictions. On the one hand, he claimed that there was a distinction between "counterrevolutionaries in words" and "counterrevolutionaries in deeds," implying that Bello and Rosales were the former and thus did not have to fear physical extermination. On the other hand, Sison threatened to launch a CPP probe of alleged criminal activities of Bello and Rosales, a move that would set the stage for their elimination on "criminal grounds."

Due process

All this is appalling.

First of all, the CPP has absolutely no right to make up lists of "counterrevolutionaries." Nobody has a monopoly on truth and valid strategies for change.

Secondly, everyone has a right to due process. Everyone has the right to be regarded innocent until proven guilty. There are universally recognized institutions that exist to ensure legal and due process. In the case of Tabara and Rolly Kintanar, two individuals it publicly admitted assassinating, the CPP says it had "evidence of criminal offenses." Whether or not it had evidence is beside the point. The point is that it was wrong and immoral for the CPP to set itself up as the prosecutor, judge, jury, witness, executioner, and gravedigger of these individuals.

No individual or paramilitary group stands above these universally recognized principles of justice.

Why we're targets

Why is the CPP/NPA so intent on destabilizing Akbayan to the point of putting three of our most prominent leaders on the hit list? The real reason is not difficult to discern: Akbayan is one of the representatives of a resurgent democratic and pluralist Left that is catching the political imagination of the Filipino people.

The contrasts between the CPP and Akbayan cannot be clearer:

- The CPP vision for governance in the Philippines is a party dictatorship. Akbayan sees the Philippines of the future as a truly democratic republic based on justice, equity, and national sovereignty.
- The CPP's road to change is the imposition, through the force of arms, of a monopoly of power. Akbayan sees the process of change as a healthy struggle of ideas, programs and visions as a pluralist process of struggle and unity among various progressive forces, where different political traditions are seen as sources of strength rather than as poisons to fundamentalist purity.
- The CPP rationalizes "permits-to-campaign" during elections as "offers for the benefit of the people and the revolutionary movement." Akbayan denounces the same as plain extortion that impedes everyone's right to free information necessary in fair elections.
- The CPP has postponed land reform till "after the seizure of power." Akbayan sees land reform and the creation of self-empowered agrarian reform communities as an urgent task.
- The CPP has a super-hierarchical and self-perpetuating central leadership that has never been elected by a party congress. Akbayan's bases are self-empowered associations, sectors, and communities that actively contribute to decision-making and hold the party's leadership accountable.

Desperate measures

Of course, Akbayan, like any other organization, is far from perfect. But one of its greatest assets is its willingness to learn from its experiences and those of others, unlike the CPP, which regards as the only truth the Shining Path of Sison.

In its desperate effort to smear our project for change, the CPP brands us as "agents of the military." The CPP simply refuses to accept that Akbayan has a long track record of condemning military and police abuses of human rights such as those committed by Brig. Gen. Jovito Palparan and those involved in the Hacienda Luisita killings, dispersals of peaceful rallies and demolitions of urban poor communities.

Similarly, we are labeled by the desperate Sison as working hand-in-hand with the United Sates. Again let us rescue the truth from the Sison School of Falsification. While Sison was ensconced in idyllic Utrecht in March 2003, enjoying the liberties of Dutch civil society and subsidized with funds from the Dutch government, Bello and Rosales were in Baghdad on the eve of the US invasion of Iraq, working with other anti-imperialist forces up to a few hours before the American bombing to stop the apocalypse.

No to one-party dictatorship

The current system of elite rule and US hegemony in the Philippines is bankrupt and must go. But the future of the Filipino people would be tragic indeed if its replacement were a CPP dictatorship. In the 1980s, the CPP detained, tortured, and massacred around 2,000 of its best cadres on suspicion that they were "military agents."

The present counterrevolutionary hit list and the CPP practice of assassinating those it marks as counterrevolutionaries are a continuation of these criminal practices.

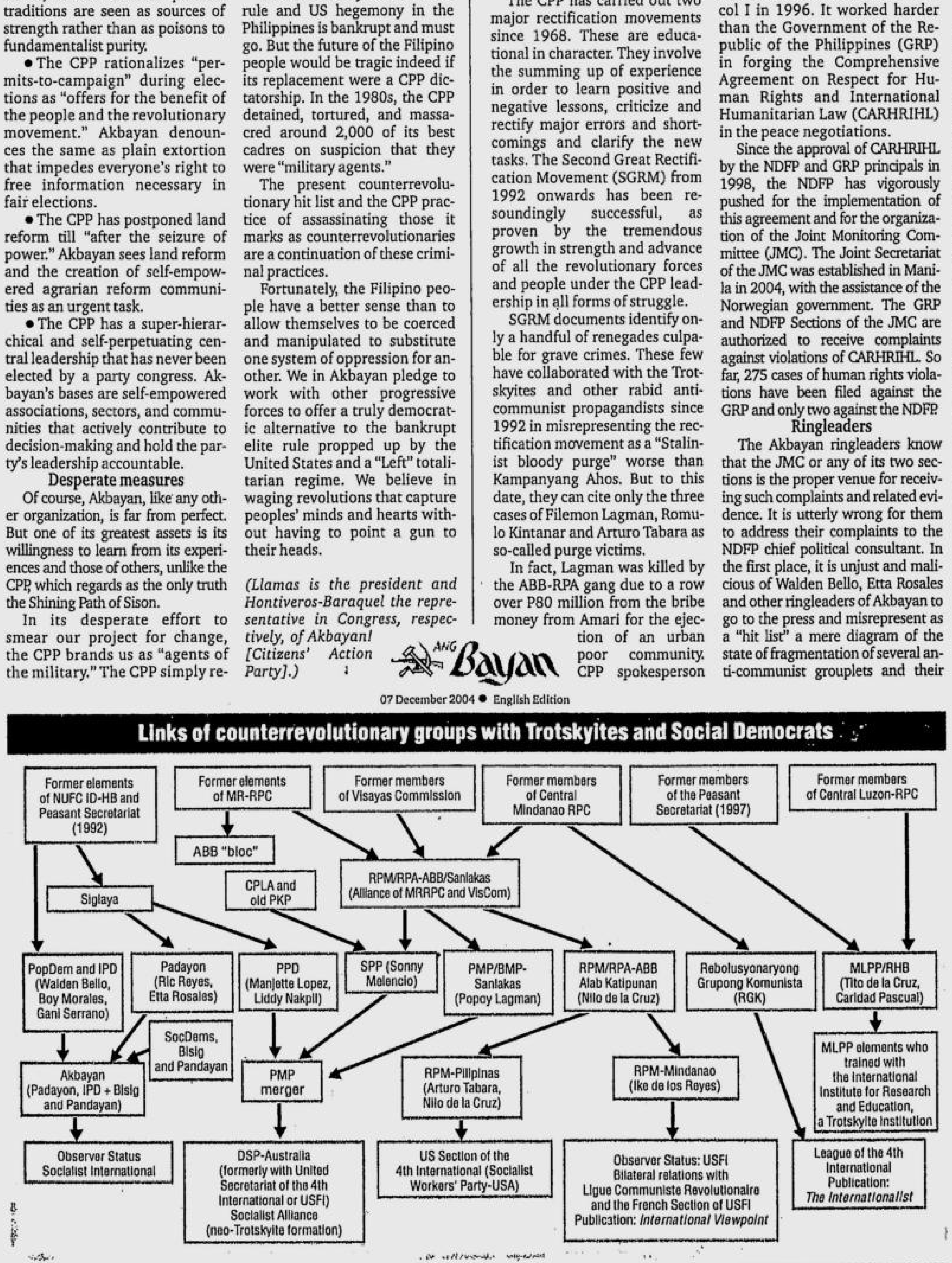
Fortunately, the Filipino people have a better sense than to allow themselves to be coerced and manipulated to substitute one system of oppression for another. We in Akbayan pledge to work with other progressive forces to offer a truly democratic alternative to the bankrupt elite rule propped up by the United States and a "Left" totalitarian regime. We believe in waging revolutions that capture peoples' minds and hearts without having to point a gun to their heads.

(Llamas is the president and Hontiveros-Baraquel the representative in Congress, respectively, of Akbayan! [Citizens' Action Party].)

ANG Bayan

07 December 2004 • English Edition

Links of counterrevolutionary groups with Trotskyites and Social Democrats


Former elements of NUFC ID-HB and Peasant Secretariat (1992)
Former elements of MR-RPC
Former members of Visayas Commission
Former members of Central Mindanao RPC
Former members of the Peasant Secretariat (1997)
Former members of Central Luzon-RPC
ABB "bloc"
RPM/RPA-ABB/Sanlakas (Alliance of MRRPC and VisCom)
CPLA and old PKP
Siglaya
PopDem and IPD (Walden Bello, Boy Morales, Gani Serrano)
Padayon (Ric Reyes, Etta Rosales)
PPD (Manjette Lopez, Liddy Nakpil)
SPP (Sonny Melencio)
PMP/BMP-Sanlakas (Popoy Lagman)
RPM/RPA-ABB Alab Katipunan (Nilo de la Cruz)
Rebolusyonaryong Grupong Komunista (RGK)
MLPP/RHB (Tito de la Cruz, Caridad Pascual)
SocDems, Bisig and Pandayan
Akbayan (Padayon, IPD + Bisig and Pandayan)
PMP merger
RPM-Pilipinas (Arturo Tabara, Nilo de la Cruz)
RPM-Mindanao (Ike de los Reyes)
MLPP elements who trained with the International Institute for Research and Education, a Trotskyite Institution
Observer Status Socialist International
DSP-Australia (formerly with United Secretariat of the 4th International or USFI) Socialist Alliance (neo-Trotskyite formation)
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INQGRAPHIC AND PAGE DESIGN: ERNIE SAMBO

CPP, NPA and NDFP uphold human rights

By Prof. Jose Maria Sison

The Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) actively upholds and stands for the full range of human rights by carrying out the new democratic revolution through protracted people's war. It fights for the national and social liberation of the Filipino people against US and the local exploiting classes. It protects and promotes the basic freedoms and democratic rights of the people.

The constitutional Guide for Establishing the People's Democratic Government sets forth the fundamental rights of the people. The constitutions of the CPP and other revolutionary forces define the rights and duties of their members and leading organs in consonance with democratic principles. The Basic Rules of the New People's Army require respect for human rights and humanitarian law.

Rectification

The CPP has carried out two major rectification movements since 1968. These are educational in character. They involve the summing up of experience in order to learn positive and negative lessons, criticize and rectify major errors and shortcomings and clarify the new tasks. The Second Great Rectification Movement (SGRM) from 1992 onwards has been resoundingly successful, as proven by the tremendous growth in strength and advance of all the revolutionary forces and people under the CPP leadership in all forms of struggle.

SGRM documents identify only a handful of renegades culpable for grave crimes. These few have collaborated with the Trotskyites and other rabid anticommunist propagandists since 1992 in misrepresenting the rectification movement as a "Stalinist bloody purge" worse than Kampanyang Ahos. But to this date, they can cite only the three cases of Filemon Lagman, Romulo Kintanar and Arturo Tabara as so-called purge victims.

In fact, Lagman was killed by the ABB-RPA gang due to a row over P80 million from the bribe money from Amari for the ejection of an urban poor community. CPP spokesperson Ka Roger has declared to the public that Kintanar and Tabara were killed in the course of violently resisting arrest. They had been charged with grave crimes before the judicial organs of the people's revolutionary government.

According to information from the CPP, Ricardo Reyes is not criminally liable for being chair of Akbayan but he is criminally liable for having been an intelligence asset of Col. Robert Delfin and for being one of the masterminds of Kampanyang Ahos that victimized hundreds of CPP cadres and members, NPA commanders and fighters and mass leaders and members in 1985-1986. He also allegedly directs anti-NPA armed gangs in the Bondoc Peninsula and elsewhere.

Geneva Conventions

Consistent with the SGRM, the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) promulgated the Unilateral Declaration of Undertaking to Apply the Geneva Conventions and Protocol I in 1996. It worked harder than the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) in forging the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (CARHRIHL) in the peace negotiations.

Since the approval of CARHRIHL by the NDFP and GRP principals in 1998, the NDFP has vigorously pushed for the implementation of this agreement and for the organization of the Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC). The Joint Secretariat of the JMC was established in Manila in 2004, with the assistance of the Norwegian government. The GRP and NDFP Sections of the JMC are authorized to receive complaints against violations of CARHRIHL. So far, 275 cases of human rights violations have been filed against the GRP and only two against the NDFP.

Ringleaders

The Akbayan ringleaders know that the JMC or any of its two sections is the proper venue for receiving such complaints and related evidence. It is utterly wrong for them to address their complaints to the NDFP chief political consultant. In the first place, it is unjust and malicious of Walden Bello, Etta Rosales and other ringleaders of Akbayan to go to the press and misrepresent as a "hit list" a mere diagram of the state of fragmentation of several anti-communist grouplets and their ideological and political connections with Trotskyite and social democratic groups abroad.

There is absolutely nothing in the diagram to prove or indicate that any or all those on the list will be killed by anyone or any organization. Philippine Daily Inquirer readers can visit www.philippinerevolution.org to examine the diagram in the Dec. 7, 2004 issue of Ang Bayan. Akbayan is utterly malicious in spreading the lie that those who drop out of the CPP and criticize it are subject to execution.

As founding chair of the CPP, I know enough of revolutionary principles, policy and practice to say that Reyes cannot be punished for holding pseudo-progressive or even counterrevolutionary ideas or beliefs. But criminal charges involving espionage, Kampanyang Ahos and armed counterrevolution are an entirely different matter. I speak only in general terms. I do not know the precise status of the cases against Reyes.

Bigger game

The ringleaders of Akbayan pose as protecting Reyes from the long reach of revolutionary justice. But they are after bigger game. They want nothing less than the destruction of the CPP and the entire revolutionary movement of the people. They use one baseless charge to slander and summarily condemn the CPP and this writer in the foulest old style of cold war witch-hunts and in the new style of the so-called war on terror. And then, they pour out so many additional accusations without bothering to provide evidence. I leave these to be answered by others.

The ringleaders of Akbayan like to present themselves as concerned with democracy and human rights. But they violate the rights of others to serve their selfish interests. They wantonly slander me and try to incite the public in the Philippines and abroad to attack my character, physical integrity and life. In the most cowardly fashion, they are taking a ride on the Bush "war on terror" and on the "terrorist" listing initiated by the United States.

Small reformist group

Bello has gone so far as to blatantly violate my basic human right by falsely accusing me of being responsible for the so-called hit list. He tries to impress the public by claiming that he was once a CPP insider in order to buttress his self-presentation as an anti-CPP informer. This highly paid agent of the Ford Foundation and other imperialist funding agencies is really overstretching himself.

The Akbayan is a small reformist group that is viciously opposed to the CPP line of new democratic revolution through protracted people's war. It likes to describe itself as "civil society" to proclaim the position that it is critical and reform seeking but ever loyal to the oppressive state. It is proud to keep relations of civility with big business and the violent state, to oppose the armed revolution of the people and to access funds from the imperialist funding agencies.

The anti-CPP and anti-Sison attacks by Akbayan are orchestrated with the psywar campaign of Washington and Manila government operatives and are amplified by certain rightwing NGO entrepreneurs, Trotskyites and other anti-communist groups. The special anti-communist agents of the United Sates and the local Filipino reactionaries are sometimes and in certain respects far worse than their masters because they attack revolutionaries from behind and from the flanks rather than frontally.

(Sison is the NDFP chief political consultant.)

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Across the NATION

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Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

Meningo causes Baguio to lose ₱52M per week

BAGUIO CITY—This mountain resort city is losing an average of P52 million weekly this month due to meningococcemia cases, according to a top tourism official in the Cordillera.

In a press conference on Friday, Purificacion Molintas, regional director of the Department of Tourism, said their records showed a 90-percent decline in tourist receipts in January.

This, she said, represented only the average tourist expenditures, at P2,500 per person per day, and did not include the projected earnings of people in tourism-related services, like vegetable and flower vendors.

Molintas said they are still expecting the losses to increase.

Dr. Florence Reyes, city health officer, said they did not record any meningococcemia case in the city from Jan. 8 to 14.

"So far, so good... With this trend we're hoping that there would be no more cases until Jan. 17," she said, referring to the date prescribed by the Department of Health that would establish if meningococcemia transmission has been contained.

Asked about the chances that the city would postpone the staging of the Baguio Flower Festival or Panagbenga scheduled on Feb. 19-28, Molintas said: "We (DOT) will recommend (the Panagbenga) to go on as scheduled. The longer we postpone it, the bigger we will lose."

Reyes said health officials are waiting for the Jan. 17 deadline set by the DOH before making any recommendations on the staging of Panagbenga, a major tourism event in the city that has attracted thousands of tourists since it was launched in 1995.

Molintas said she would encourage organizers to lower their expectations in the event due to the effect of the meningococcemia incidents here.

She said they are recommending to organizers to scale down the Panagbenga-related activities and spread out their location to avoid overcrowding.

"We really need a lot of effort to regain what we lost (in tourism-related activities)," she said.

She said she was optimistic that Baguio would take a shorter time to recover from the effects of meningococcemia unlike what happened to some Asian countries affected by the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome two years ago.

"Definitely, we will overcome (this problem)," she said. *Robert Abaño, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

BIKE FOR HOPE TOOTS SOBERANO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

Meningo or no meningo, Sen. Pia Cayetano leads a pack of cyclists in Baguio City in a campaign called Bike for Hope which seeks to raise funds for worthy causes started by her father, the late Sen. Renato Cayetano.

WHO expert says cold weather big factor in meningo spread

BAGUIO CITY—The weather in this mountain resort city is getting colder and this may pose a problem to health officials who wanted to lift the meningococcemia alert on Monday.

Dr. Eric Bertherat, a French epidemiologist of the World Health Organization, said cold weather is a major factor in the resurgence of meningococcemia.

"Cold weather brings influenza and other infections of the respiratory tract," said Bertherat, who flew in from the WHO offices in Geneva, Switzerland, to investigate the meningococcemia incidents in Baguio that already killed 19 residents from March 2004 to January this year.

The weather in Baguio is actually getting colder, according to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa).

Pagasa weather specialist Salvador Olinares said the coldest temperature this year was recorded on Friday at 11.6 degrees Celsius. The temperature on Jan. 13 was 12.8 degrees Celsius and on Jan. 12, 13.2 degrees Celsius.

Olinares said the northerly winds or *amihan* caused the cold weather. He said that historically, Baguio is colder in January and February.

"Mucus accumulates and the bacteria (Neisseria meningitidis) have more facilities to bust through the pharynx and into the brain," said Bertherat.

He said N. meningitidis, which causes invasive meningococcal disease, normally lives in the nasopharynx (located above the palate and behind the nose) of a tenth of all adults and can be transmitted through direct contact.

For those without immunity, the bacteria can pass from the pharynx and into the bloodstream and into the brain, causing meningitis or meningococcemia, if it affects other internal organs.

"That is why meningococcemia starts at early winter even in developed countries," he said.

Bertherat said this is normally the time when meningococcal epidemics hit the so-called meningitis belt in Africa. *Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Bohol much awaited in Sinulog feast

By Chito A. Fuentes
PDI Visayas Bureau

TAGBILARAN CITY—Bohol's flag will fly proudly in today's street-dancing competition of the Sinulog Festival, courtesy of the Panglao town delegation.

Mayor Doloreich Dumaluan yesterday confirmed Panglao's participation in the popular mardi gras event in both the street-dancing competition as well as in the parade of floats.

"Our intention is not really to win but the continuous promotion (of Panglao)," Dumaluan said.

He noted that Panglao has stamped its class in Bohol, having won the street-dancing competition in Bohol's own Sandugo festivals.

The mayor said he expected a delegation of up to 120 people, including drummers, for the town's entry in the competition.

He added that the participation required a budget of more than P400,000 but he said it was worth the expense as the promotion is expected to result in economic benefits for the resort town in the form of increased patronage in Panglao's beach resorts and hotels in the future.

"When people see the name of Panglao, I think they will no longer be hearing it for the first time," Dumaluan said.

The mayor said he expects spectators to cheer for the Panglao delegation as the island has been making a name for itself as one of the country's primary tourist destination.

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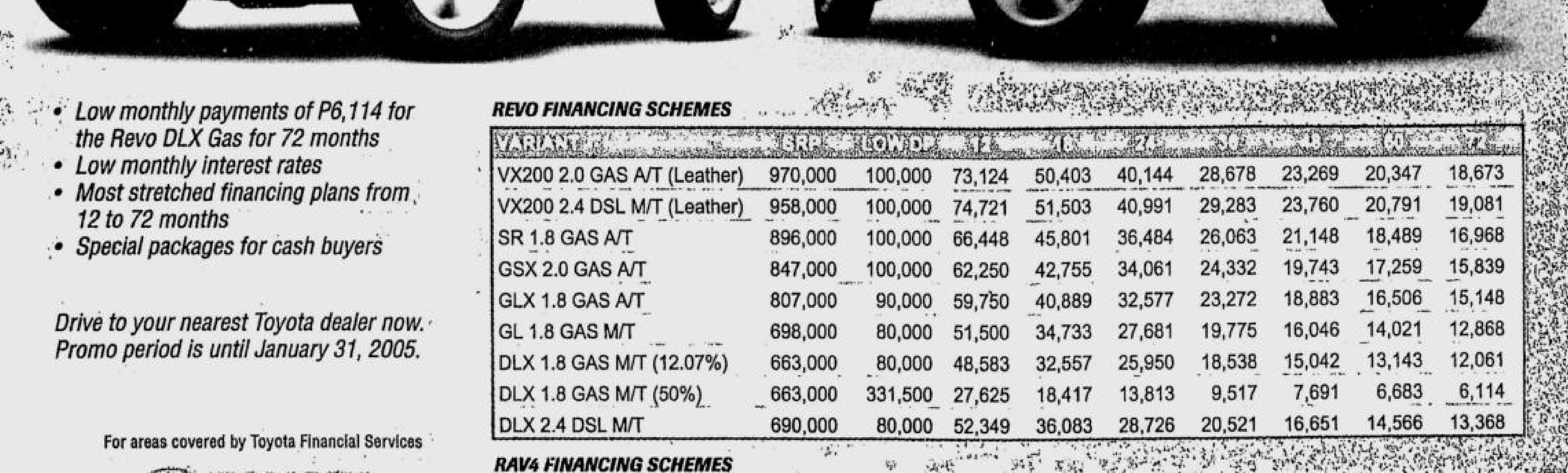

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GSX 2.0 GAS A/T	847,000	100,000	62,250	42,755	34,061	24,332	19,743	17,259	15,839
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GL 1.8 GAS M/T	698,000	80,000	51,500	34,733	27,681	19,775	16,046	14,021	12,868
DLX 1.8 GAS M/T (12.07%)	663,000	80,000	48,583	32,557	25,950	18,538	15,042	13,143	12,061
DLX 1.8 GAS M/T (50%)	663,000	331,500	27,625	18,417	13,813	9,517	7,691	6,683	6,114
DLX 2.4 DSL M/T	690,000	80,000	52,349	36,083	28,726	20,521	16,651	14,566	13,368

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4x4 A/T	1,268,000	100,000	103,579	71,395	56,801	40,577	32,925	28,821	26,450
4x2 SV M/T	1,048,000	100,000	83,733	57,715	45,921	32,805	26,618	23,299	21,382

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TOYOTA

Separatist reb says slain Abu head MILF man

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—A regular member of the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) revealed that slain bandit leader Abdulrakman Bedis Binago was a commander of the MILF 109th base command in Palimbang town, Sultan Kudarat.

In an interview with dxES Bombo Radyo here, a certain Oscar, one of the MILF fighters who participated in the attack against an Army detachment in Linantangan, Mamasapano, Maguindanao early last week, claimed that the attack was in retaliation for the killing of Binago by the military.

Binago was one of the four slain bandits during an encounter with government troops in Barangay Lumitan, Palimbang town, Sultan Kudarat, last Jan. 5.

Oscar added that MILF commander Abdul Wahid Tundok and Commander Faisal of the MILF 105th base command led the attack.

Out of the nine government soldiers manning the detachment, seven were killed, one escaped unhurt while the other suffered a minor bullet wound.

Oscar further claimed that when they overran the Army camp, five out of the seven slain soldiers were still alive.

"They were asked to surrender, but instead of giving up their firearms, they engaged us in hand-to-hand combat, forcing us to shoot them," Oscar said.

He admitted that after killing them, the MILF rebels took all personal belongings, firearms and cell phones of the slain government troopers.

He said more than 300 MILF rebels stormed the Army detachment and the fierce exchange of gunfire lasted for about five hours.

According to him, the government soldiers stood their ground and never gave up their position until they finally ran out of bullets.

Oscar said they attacked the detachment manned by the soldiers from the 37th IB because it was the same unit which killed Binago in Palimbang.

Bombo Radyo managed to contact Oscar through a cellular phone which he allegedly took from Cpl. Mark Mahumot, who died during the attack.

Brig. Gen. Alexander Yano, civil-military relations chief of the AFP, told the INQUIRER that government troopers are now preparing charges of multiple frustrated murder, frustrated murder, robbery and arson against Tundok and his followers.

Yano said they were going to secure a copy of the interview made by Bombo with Oscar to be used as evidence in the criminal case filed against Tundok and his group.

He said it was the 27th IB and not the 37th IB that is hunting down the Abu Sayyaf in Palimbang town. *Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Hawaii legislators to 'adopt' 1 of 100 islands

FOREIGN diplomats bend over to plant trees in Alaminos, Pangasinan, as part of a project initiated by Mayor Hernani Braganza and his uncle, former president Fidel Ramos, to preserve the ecology of areas surrounding the Lingayen Gulf and the Hundred Islands. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

ALAMINOS CITY—The Aloha Medical Mission of Hawaii will adopt one of the islands of the Hundred Islands National Park (HINP) here as a "symbol of friendship" between the State of Hawaii and Pangasinan.

The mission, headed by State of Hawaii Representatives Dennis Arakaki (30th district), Michael Magaoay (4th district) and Felipe Abinsay (29th district), visited HINP after conducting medical missions in Ilocos Norte and Ilocos Sur recently.

In 2003, the team also conducted a weeklong medical mission in different towns in Pangasinan.

Mayor Hernani Braganza said government agencies managing the HINP still have to identify the island that will be adopted by the mission.

Most of the members of the team trace their roots to the Ilocos region but it was their first visit to the HINP, the country's first national park.

Amazed at the beauty of the islands, they have committed to help in the conservation, preservation and enhancement of the island that the mission will adopt, Braganza said.

The HINP, this province's premier tourist attraction, is a diverse ecosystem of overgrown corals that compose the 123 islands and islets covering 1,844 hectares.

"The group will study the possibility of sending experts on agriculture, fishery and environment to the city to help us in these fields," Braganza said.

The adoption of an island "will seal the sisterhood arrangement" between Hawaii and Pangasinan, he said.

The sisterhood agreement between Hawaii and Pangasinan was signed on July 11, 2002, in Hawaii between Gov. Victor Agbayani and then Hawaii Gov. Benjamin Cayetano who traces his roots to Urdaneta City.

Agbayani said there are many Pangasinenses in Hawaii, such as Cayetano and former Miss America Angela Baraquio, whose father is from Aguilar town.

"The friendship between our province and Hawaii will surely benefit the two communities," the governor said.

The sisterhood agreement said Pangasinan and Hawaii would "jointly establish priorities and a program for the accomplishment of mutually desirable objectives in trade, education, tourism and communications."

The provincial government hosted a dinner for mission members on Thursday night, during which the visitors entertained Pangasinan officials with Hawaiian songs and dances.

Pangasinan officials, on the other hand, sang Pangasinan and Ilocano songs for them.

Arakaki said he considered the visit as a homecoming because he is an adopted son of Pangasinan. He has been a member of the Aloha Mission that conducted medical and trade missions to Pangasinan.

"We're so blessed. We're always treated warmly and generously here. We have used the Aloha Week here in the past years as a model in conducting missions in other places," he said.

Arakaki also announced that Hawaii would be celebrating the centennial anniversary of the immigration of Filipinos to Hawaii in 2006. *Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

New task force cops' answer to ex-cop's slaying

LUCENA CITY—The police have formed "Task Force Sebastian," composed of different government agencies, for the immediate arrest of those responsible for the murder of retired police Senior Supt. Eduardo Sebastian.

Supt. Francis Elmo Sarona, Lucena City police chief, said the task force is composed of operatives from the local police, Criminal Investigation and Detection Team and the military's Southern Luzon Command based in Camp Nakar.

"The group will coordinate with each other for the immediate arrest of the killers and for the subsequent filing of appropriate criminal charges in court. No stones will be left unturned in the operation of the task force," Sarona said.

But, according to communist spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal, the killers had already returned to the safe confine of the rebels' guerrilla zone.

"They are already resting from the successful operation. They would no longer stay long in the urban areas as a precautionary measure," he said in a mobile phone interview.

Meanwhile, the family of the slain former Quezon provincial police director lashed out at some members of the media for showing in local television news programs video footage of the bloodied official while sprawled on a wood bench in the house terrace.

"I already requested you not to take footage of my father but you still showed it in your program," Gary Sebastian, the eldest son of the victim, furiously said as he confronted the crew of STV6, a local cable television station, in the Sebastian family house.

Lotlot Abejo, the STV6 cameraman, replied to Sebastian that he complied with the request.

"What were used in the program were footage from another source," he told the son of the victim.

Sebastian also protested the publication in the INQUIRER of the picture of his slain father slumped on the wooden bench.

In a burst of anger, Sebastian shouted at reporters to just leave the house.

"You are of no help and yet you pester us," he told reporters.

The media group quietly left the place.

When the INQUIRER arrived in Sebastian's house in RGR Subdivision in Barangay Kanlurang Mayao on Wednesday morning, barely an hour after two members of the communist Sparrow Unit gunned down the police official, the body of the victim was already brought to the funeral parlor.

Upon learning that a photographer, Gary Guinto, who was with the police investigating team, had taken photos of the body, the INQUIRER requested Sarona's permission to use one of the photos for publication, to which he agreed.

The photo appeared in the Across the Nation section.

Major Jose Broso, Solcom spokesperson, chided Rosal for being the "spokesperson of a criminal group." *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

People, LGUs donate land to house 4,000 Mindoro families

ROXAS, Oriental Mindoro—A total of 33.5 hectares of land have been donated by this town's local government units and several individuals in four towns in this province for 4,000 families that lost their homes due to recent calamities.

The number of donated parcels of land is expected to increase as other LGUs donate their share in the project, while other individuals have also expressed intention to do so.

The donated pieces of property will be used to build housing units for the families whose homes were destroyed by typhoon "Unding" in Roxas, Bongabong and Mansalay towns, the three hardest hit areas by the typhoon.

The donated land in Bulalacao will also be used to build houses for homeless Mangyan families.

"The maximum target is 4,000 units in Mindoro. Five hundred will be worked out on the first year," said Dr. Manny Priela, member of the Couples for Christ-Mindoro.

About 100 members of the Couples for Christ, including those from Batangas, will handle the building of communities in Mindoro, he said.

The donated lands will also contain playgrounds, schools, day-care centers, health centers and other basic structures, Priela added.

"The unique feature in Mindoro is that people are very generous," said Tony Meloto, executive director of Gawad Kalinga (GK).

GK led the groundbreaking ceremony in Barangay San Rafael on Jan. 7 with Vice President Noli de Castro, chair of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council, and Social Welfare Secretary Corazon Soliman as guests.

Simultaneously held during the occasion were relief operations and medical and dental missions at the municipal gymnasium with De Castro, a Mindoreño, as major sponsor.

The one-hectare site was donated by ex-congressman Manny Andaya, another hectare by the LGU of Roxas and 10 hectares given by relatives and friends of Roxas Mayor Jesus Dimapilis.

Another three hectares were donated by engineer Rudy Dayanghirang in Bulalacao while a 2.5-hectare prime lot in Bongabong and 16 hectares in Mansalay were also given by unidentified individuals.

This will be the second time that the GK will render housing services for homeless families in the province.

Meloto said the first recipients of the GK were 13 families of Mangyans in Barangay Gutad, Naujan town.

"There are plenty of idle lands and we're building communities out of these," he said. *Madonna T. Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Vessel in Cebu fluvial parade runs aground

CEBU CITY—A cargo vessel carrying at least 80 people ran aground and was stranded for two hours in a shoal off Mactan Channel while joining the annual fluvial procession held on the eve of the Feast of Señor Sto. Niño in Cebu.

Cebu Coast Guard deputy commander Chief Petty Officer Lemuel Alquiza, said the incident did not affect the fluvial procession, which is annually held at the Mactan Channel from Mandaue City's Ouano wharf to Cebu City's Pier 1 from 6 a.m. to 9 a.m.

The stranded vessel, with 86 persons on board, was among over 100 sea craft that joined the fluvial procession, one of the highlights of the various religious activities held prior to tomorrow's celebration of the Feast of the Señor Sto. Niño, Cebu's patron saint.

The celebration will culminate in a dawn Mass at the Basilica del Sto. Niño and the Sinulog Festival dance parade starting at 9 a.m.

The fluvial procession is intended to bring back the image of Sto. Niño from St. Joseph Shrine in Mandaue City, where the image slept for one night, to the Basilica. *Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau*

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Editor Jun Bandayrel
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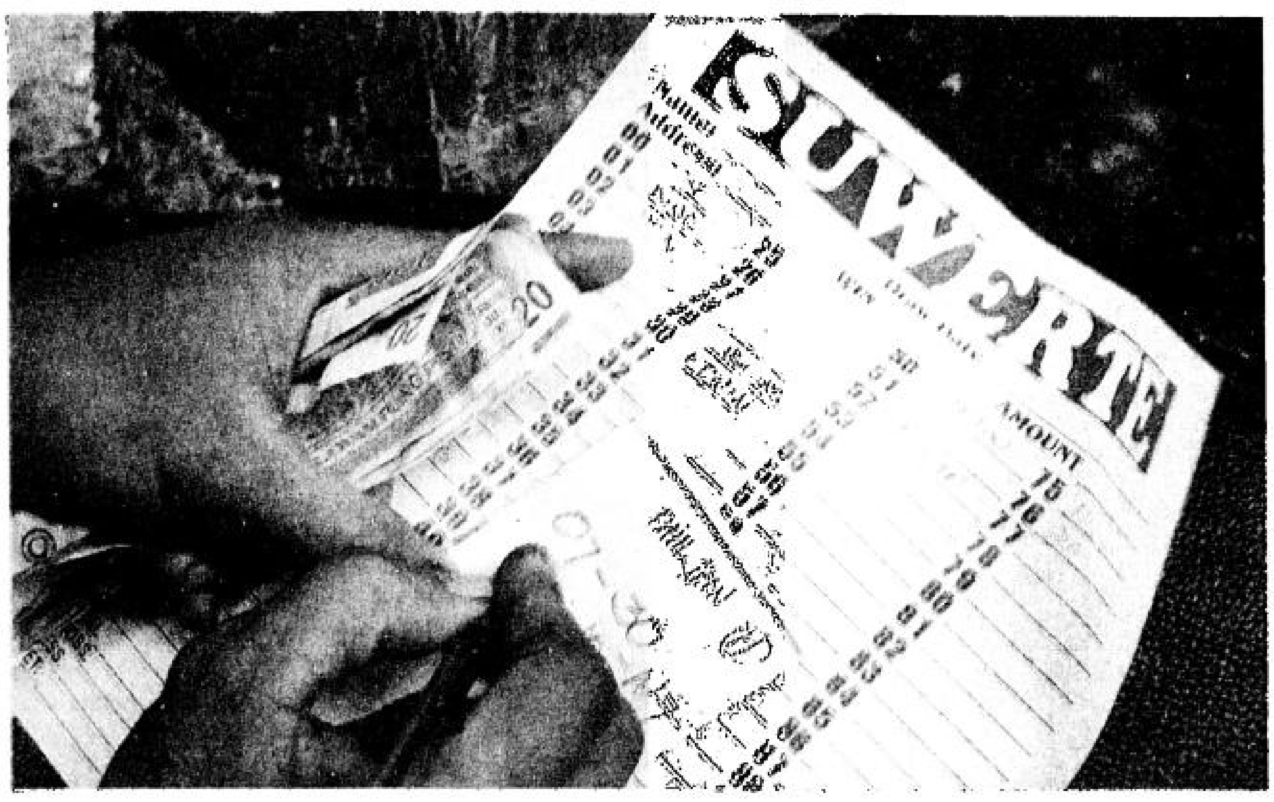
Stuff 'Last Two' gambling is made of

By Romel M. Oribe
Contributor

LAST Two" gambling has become so widespread in my hometown of Tago in Surigao del Sur that it's now known for mathematical sorcerers whose knack at interpreting dreams would give Freud posthumous nightmares.

"Last Two" refers to the last two digits of the lotto result that people bet on. To lessen the randomness of their stake, people rely mainly on dreams. This dream dependence has led to narcolepsy such that some of my neighbors have self-induced sleep attacks, going directly from a waking state into rapid eye movement (REM) just so they can ambush their subconscious for numbers that spell either feast or famine for their families.

Mercy works at the town hall. She reports for work early, but not as early as her officemates who want their dreams deciphered for numeric equivalents. Like a doctor, she has a table. Before her are sheets of recycled and quartered bond paper, her prescription pads for patients suffering from irreversible arithmetical malaise.



THE LAST two digits of the lotto result have become another source of an illegal numbers game called "Last Two" that is widespread in Surigao. BING GONZALES/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

The first patient comes up to her and says, "I dreamed last night that I stepped on a mound of shit as I walked down a grassy hill."

"Human or dog shit?" Mercy deadpans.

A beat. "Human."

"Was it brownish or yellowish?" A longer beat. "Yellowish."

Mercy nods and reaches for the woman's hand, squeezes it, makes eye contact and says, "Now, think hard: *igit o tubol?* (Was it soft or hard shit?)"

Before the woman could ask if it matters, a lizard makes a sound. Mercy stiffens and listens for integers masked in terse reptilian rhythm. Then, as if in a trance, she snatches a piece of paper and scrawls furiously. After a while she rolls the paper and puts it in her pocket; there it remains until an officemate pays for the numbers she has written on it.

DUGONG MINDANAW

Mercy is on a double take: She receives the obligatory cut from her disciples should they win, and gets paid as numerologist. So by day's end, she'll have the amount to pay for her own share of dreams. And then some.

This digital appetite is not confined to dreams; it extends to anything with statistical tang. And here Pepe is a connoisseur.

Combinations

Considered a walking Office of the Local Civil Registrar, Pepe knows practically all birthdays, death and wedding anniversaries of people living within a kilometer-radius from his crumbling abode.

He also keeps track of national holidays and historical events. And each time these dates come, he computes and sells numeral combinations using either the year, the date, the month or the number of times the occasion has been celebrated.

When these combinations fail, *sindikato*, which is a form of mathematical gobbledygook, is Pepe's stock answer. He told me that in "Last Two," 9 is the *sindikato* of 6, 8 of 3, 7 of 4, 5 of 2, and 1 of 0.

Uh. Okay. But I have a total of 24 units of college math, not counting those I took in elementary and high school, and not once had our teachers said that numbers have variants. Inverse, yes, but variants?

This numeral addiction has reached the level of science because "Last Two" practitioners have codified everything: a pregnant woman is 5; a *puso ng saging* (banana heart) is 1; a lizard is 6; an open book is 4; a bald person is 0; a cat is 4; a guitar is 8; an earthworm is 2; a toothbrush is 7; ad infinitum. So when you see or dream of pregnant women making burgers out of *puso ng saging*, you are to bet on 51, and all its variations, including that of 20, is *sindikato*.

A lizard strumming a guitar means 68. Simple, right? But it can get a bit tricky, not to mention costly, like when a lizard falls into the shiny pate (60) of a man brushing his teeth (07) who slams it hard into an open book (64), thus startling the cat by the window eating a worm (42).

"Last Two" has simplified statistics that people are computing for probabilities like they're just doodling. My friend Helen does nothing but compute for probable "Last Two" results, maddening her husband Vick. At the end of the day, she keeps her "Last Two" receipts under her pillow, discarding them only after she wins and knows her net gain, which is not often. Lately, I've heard she has no need for a pillow.

"Last Two" also smacks of geometry. Numeric maniacs now turn to calendars to extract winning combinations by drawing obtuse, acute and right angles based on yesterday's result. Even the fine print indicative of tidal motions to them reveal numerical permutations of oceanic proportions.

Manual TV

"Last Two" has also paved the way for the invention of the manual TV that I first saw from Senio, my numeric addict officemate. It's made of two pieces of cardboard, one with random square holes and the other with numbers plotted on it like a Bingo card.

To use, the former is superimposed on the latter and the numbers appearing on the screen become the bases for combinations. Thing is, when I tried it, I found that seven numbers from 0 to 9 were encapsulated by the holes. Pairing them off, I ended up with a gazillion combinations.

I told Senio later that, unless he's a first-rate statistician with the gift of clairvoyance, he'll end up pawning his mother-in-law to finance all variations of the numbers flashed on his flat TV screen.

People then gathered around a deathbed to whisper to the dying their petition for forgiveness; people now surround a deathbed to whisper to the dying their supplication for numbers even as they remain riveted to the wall clock so as not to miss the exact time of death for more combinations.

My sister will kill me for this, but she too is hooked on numbered dreams. As Mercy's officemate and understudy, she can translate the language of frogs and dogs into Arabic numerals.

Spider cocoons

And, like a bounty hunter, she scours our house for spent spider cocoons to divine inside a numeric pattern which, to my unskilled eye, is nothing but downy blobs that diffuse with the gentlest touch.

Well, I couldn't care less if "Last Two" gambling is making weirdos of cogent *Homo sapiens*. What bothers me is the fact that elementary students are now clustered, not according to sex, but whether they are bettors or ushers (those who sell numbers) of "Last Two."

Worse, these kids are said to forgo snacks, opting to spend their *baon* instead on numbers. Now, whether they will grow to be malnourished mathematical sorcerers with a knack for interpreting dreams is something that needs no betting on.

Meanwhile, this remains unchecked because teachers themselves are said to be busy dreaming about numbers. So it's just a matter of time before "Last Two" becomes a teacher-pupil thing. And that makes everything heartbreaking.

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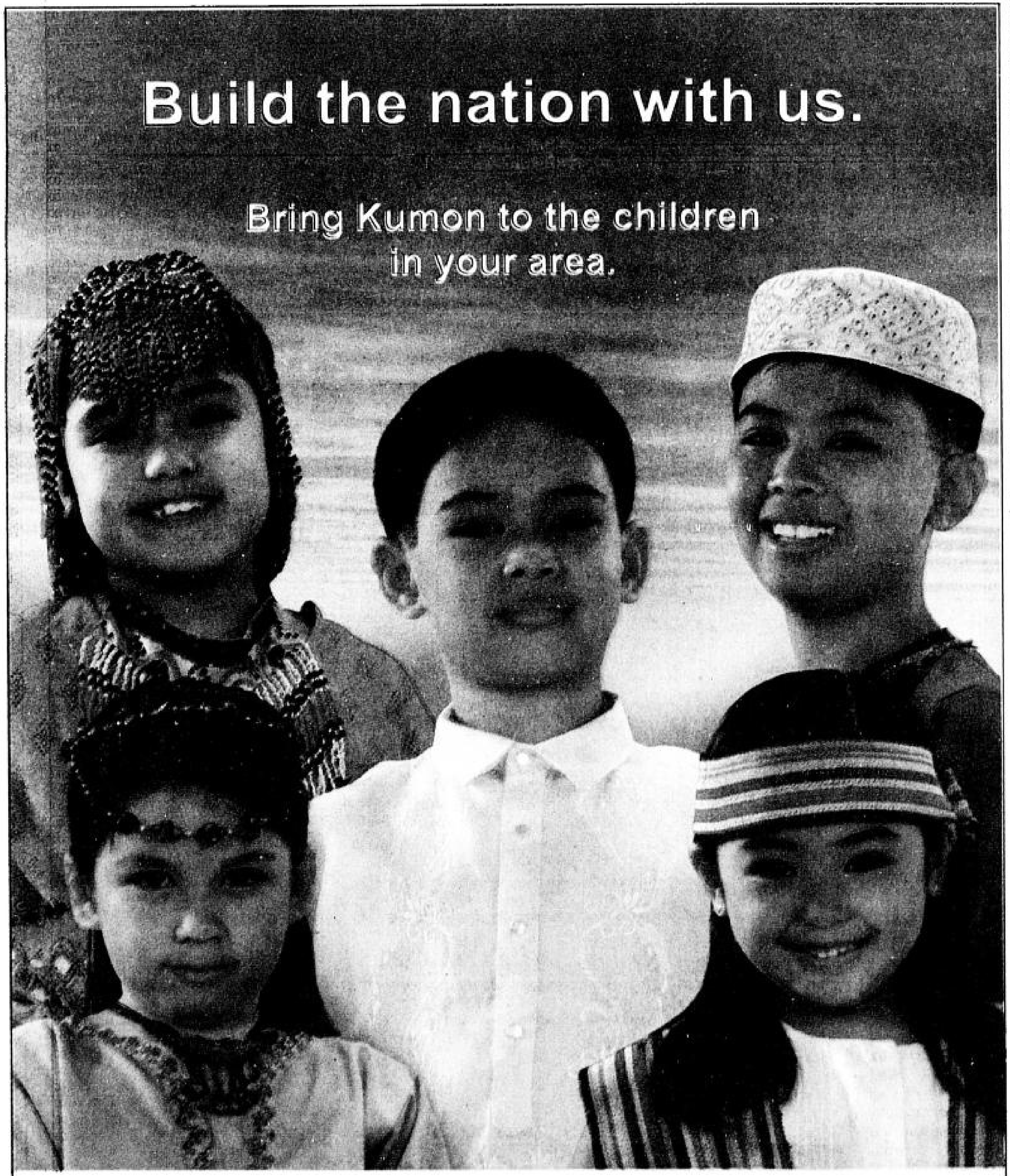
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				Lot	Impv	
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QRSI - 0003	850894	5	4B	128	35.2	468,960.00
QRSI - 0004	850895	5	5A	173	35.2	575,400.00
QRSI - 0005	849090	6	5A	100	35.2	396,160.00
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QRSI - 0007	850904	7	3B	114	35.2	432,560.00
QRSI - 0008	850907	7	5A	103	35.2	403,960.00
QRSI - 0009	850908	7	5B	100	35.2	396,160.00
QRSI - 0010	850913	7	10A	100	35.2	388,000.00
QRSI - 0011	850914	7	10B	100	35.2	396,160.00
QRSI - 0012	849123	7	13B	100	35.2	396,160.00
QRSI - 0013	849107	7	20B	100	35.2	396,160.00
						5,615,560.00

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					Lot	Impv	
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SRVV-	0002	468229	3	21	150	31.5	329,000.00
SRVV-	0003	448117	4	1	133	31.5	299,500.00
SRVV-	0004	430593	4	2	130	31.5	302,000.00
SRVV-	0005	461581	4	3	120	31.5	290,000.00
SRVV-	0006	451682	4	4	120	31.5	290,000.00
SRVV-	0007	451683	4	5	120	31.5	256,000.00
SRVV-	0008	450077	4	6	120	31.5	256,000.00
SRVV-	0009	451684	4	7	120	31.5	256,000.00
SRVV-	0010	451686	4	9	120	31.5	290,000.00
SRVV-	0011	450079	4	11	120	31.5	262,000.00
SRVV-	0012	448118	4	12	120	31.5	262,000.00
SRVV-	0013	448119	4	14	120	31.5	256,000.00
SRVV-	0014	450081	4	15	120	31.5	256,000.00
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SRVV-	0018	451687	4	19	120	31.5	256,000.00
SRVV-	0019	450083	4	20	120	31.5	256,000.00
SRVV-	0020	450085	4	23	120	31.5	256,000.00
SRVV-	0021	450087	4	25	120	31.5	256,000.00
SRVV-	0022	451689	4	27	120	31.5	262,000.00
SRVV-	0023	450088	4	28	120	31.5	256,000.00
SRVV-	0024	450089	4	29	120	31.5	290,000.00
SRVV-	0025	448121	4	30	120	31.5	256,000.00
SRVV-	0026	448276	4	32	120	31.5	262,000.00
SRVV-	0027	448433	4	33	120	31.5	290,000.00
SRVV-	0028	448434	4	35	120	31.5	290,000.00
SRVV-	0029	450090	4	36	120	31.5	262,000.00
SRVV-	0030	448435	4	37	120	31.5	262,000.00
SRVV-	0031	450091	4	38	120	31.5	282,000.00
SRVV-	0032	448122	4	40	120	31.5	282,000.00
SRVV-	0033	448438	4	45	120	31.5	262,000.00
SRVV-	0034	430596	4	46	120	31.5	262,000.00
SRVV-	0035	430598	4	50	120	31.5	262,000.00
SRVV-	0036	430599	4	52	120	31.5	262,000.00
SRVV-	0037	430602	4	59	120	31.5	262,000.00
SRVV-	0038	430594	4	61	139	31.5	314,700.00
SRVV-	0039	448280	4	62	275	31.5	457,500.00
SRVV-	0040	430603	4	63	120	31.5	290,000.00
SRVV-	0041	433095	4	64	120	31.5	256,000.00
SRVV-	0042	450092	4	66	120	31.5	256,000.00
SRVV-	0043	448123	4	67	120	31.5	262,000.00
SRVV-	0044	451693	4	68	120	31.5	256,000.00
SRVV-	0045	430604	4	69	120	31.5	256,000.00
SRVV-	0046	451694	4	70	120	31.5	262,000.00
SRVV-	0047	461564	4	77	110	31.5	243,000.00
SRVV-	0048	461565	4	78	110	31.5	243,000.00
SRVV-	0049	430600	4	79	110	31.5	243,000.00
SRVV-	0050	461566	4	80	110	31.5	249,000.00
SRVV-	0051	451712	4	81	110	31.5	243,000.00
SRVV-	0052	451671	4	82	110	31.5	243,000.00
SRVV-	0053	450094	4	85	110	31.5	243,000.00
SRVV-	0054	450097	4	86	110	31.5	243,000.00
SRVV-	0055	450098	4	88	110	31.5	243,000.00
SRVV-	0056	448124	4	91	110	31.5	277,000.00
SRVV-	0057	461567	4	92	110	31.5	277,000.00
SRVV-	0058	448447	4	93	110	31.5	243,000.00
SRVV-	0059	448448	4	95	110	31.5	243,000.00
SRVV-	0060	461558	4	97	110	31.5	243,000.00
SRVV-	0061	451699	5	8	80	31.5	193,000.00
SRVV-	0062	450099	5	11	80	24.0	192,000.00
SRVV-	0063	461587	5	12	80	24.0	153,600.00
SRVV-	0064	450101	5	15	80	24.0	180,000.00
SRVV-	0065	461589	5	16	80	24.0	153,600.00
SRVV-	0066	450107	5	17	80	24.0	180,000.00
SRVV-	0067	461590	5	18	80	24.0	153,600.00
SRVV-	0068	450103	5	20	80	24.0	153,600.00
SRVV-	0069	450104	5	21	80	24.0	153,600.00
SRVV-	0070	451700	5	22	80	24.0	153,600.00
SRVV-	0071	450096	5	23	80	24.0	153,600.00
SRVV-	0072	451702	5	24	80	24.0	153,600.00
SRVV-	0073	450105	5	25	80	24.0	153,600.00
SRVV-	0074	451703	5	26	80	24.0	153,600.00
SRVV-	0075	450106	5	27	80	24.0	153,600.00
SRVV-	0076	450107	5	58	80	24.0	153,600.00
SRVV-	0077	448451	5	60	80	24.0	153,600.00
SRVV-	0078	450108	5	62	80	24.0	153,600.00
SRVV-	0079	448092	5	63	80	24.0	153,600.00
SRVV-	0080	450109	5	65	80	24.0	153,600.00
SRVV-	0081	448125	5	66	80	24.0	153,600.00
SRVV-	0082	448093	5	68	80	24.0	153,600.00
SRVV-	0083	430608	5	69	80	24.0	153,600.00
SRVV-	0084	448126	5	71	80	24.0	153,600.00
SRVV-	0085	461585	5	72	179	24.0	272,400.00
SRVV-	0086	450110	5	73	128	24.0	211,200.00
SRVV-	0087	450111	6	4	80	24.0	153,600.00
SRVV-	0088	450112	6	5	80	24.0	153,600.00
SRVV-	0089	415788	6	6	80	24.0	153,600.00
SRVV-	0090	450114	6	8	80	24.0	153,600.00
SRVV-	0091	450116	6	9	80	24.0	153,600.00
SRVV-	0092	446888	6	10	80	24.0	153,600.00
SRVV-	0093	450116	6	11	80	24.0	153,600.00
SRVV-	0094	450117	6	12	80	24.0	153,600.00
SRVV-	0095	450118	6	13	80	24.0	153,600.00
SRVV-	0096	451704	6	14	80	24.0	153,600.00
SRVV-	0097	450119	6	15	80	24.0	153,600.00
SRVV-	0098	451705	6	16	80	24.0	153,600.00
SRVV-	0099	451706	6	17	80	24.0	153,600.00
SRVV-	0100	451708	6	19	80	24.0	153,600.00
SRVV-	0101	451709	6	20	80	24.0	153,600.00
SRVV-	0102	461593	6	21	80	24.0	153,600.00
SRVV-	0103	461594	6	22	80	24.0	153,600.00
SRVV-	0104	461597	6	30	80	24.0	153,600.00
SRVV-	0105	450120	6	32	80	24.0	153,600.00
SRVV-	0106	450127	6	34	80	24.0	153,600.00
SRVV-	0107	461598	6	35	80	24.0	153,600.00
SRVV-	0108	451710	6	36	80	24.0	153,600.00
SRVV-	0109	448127	6	38	80	24.0	153,600.00
SRVV-	0110	461600	6	39	80	24.0	153,600.00
SRVV-	0111	468150	6	42	80	24.0	153,600.00
SRVV-	0112	461603	6	43	80	24.0	153,600.00
SRVV-	0113	448128	6	44	80	24.0	153,600.00
SRVV-	0114	448129	6	46	80	24.0	153,600.00
SRVV-	0115	450123	6	50	80	24.0	163,200.00
SRVV-	0116	450124	6	52	80	24.0	153,600.00
SRVV-	0117	461608	6	53	80	28.0	247,000.00
SRVV-	0118	461609	6	54	80	28.0	247,000.00
SRVV-	0119	461610	6	55	80	28.0	247,000.00
SRVV-	0120	451711	6	56	80	28.0	247,000.00
SRVV-	0121	461611	6	57	80	28.0	247,000.00
SRVV-	0122	450125	6	61	80	28.0	247,000.00
SRVV-	0123	450126	6	62	80	28.0	247,000.00
SRVV-	0124	450127	6	63	80	28.0	247,000.00
SRVV-	0125	468230	6	64	80	28.0	247,000.00
SRVV-	0126	450128	6	65	80	28.0	247,000.00
SRVV-	0127	468231	6	66	80	28.0	247,000.00
SRVV-	0128	448284	7	4	120	31.0	327,500.00
SRVV-	0129	461578	7	7	120	31.0	327,500.00
SRVV-	0130	448083	7	8	120	31.0	327,500.00
SRVV-	0131	461579	7	9	120	31.0	327,500.00
SRVV-	0132	448453	7	10	120	31.0	327,500.00
SRVV-	0133	448454	7	12	120	31.0	327,500.00
SRVV-	0134	451716	7	19	120	31.0	327,500.00
SRVV-	0135	451717	7	21	120	31.0	327,500.00
SRVV-	0136	448085	7	22	120	31.0	327,500.00
SRVV-	0137	448086	7	24	120	31.0	327,500.00
SRVV-	0138	451718	7	25	120	31.0	327,500.00
SRVV-	0139	433097	7	28	120	31.0	327,500.00
SRVV-	0140	448087	7	29	120	31.0	327,500.00
SRVV-	0141	433098	7	30	120	31.0	327,500.00
SRVV-	0142	451719	7	32	120	31.0	327,500.00
SRVV-	0143	446889	7	34	120	31.0	327,500.00
SRVV-	0144	451721	7	35	120	31.0	327,500.00
SRVV-	0145	451673	7	37B	60	28.0	221,000.00
SRVV-	0146	433106	7	39A	60	28.0	221,000.00
SRVV-	0147	433107	7	39B	60	28.0	221,000.00
SRVV-	0148	430638	7	41A	60	28.0	221,000.00
SRVV-	0149	430639	7	41B	60	28.0	221,000.00
SRVV-	0150	430640	7	42A	60	28.0	221,000.00
SRVV-	0151	450133	7	57	120	31.0	327,500.00
SRVV-	0152	450134	8	1	119	31.0	350,000.00
SRVV-	0153	415796	8	4	100	31.0	301,500.00
SRVV-	0154	430615	8	8	100	31.0	301,500.00
SRVV-	0155	430617	8	12	100	31.0	301,500.00
SRVV-	0156	430618	8	14	100	31.0	301,500.00
SRVV-	0157	448286	8	18	100	31.0	301,500.00
SRVV-	0158	450139	8	19	100	31.0	301,500.00
SRVV-	0159	451722	8	20	100	31.0	301,500.00
SRVV-	0160	450140	8	21	100	31.0	301,500.00
SRVV-	0161	450142	8	23	100	31.0	301,500.00
SRVV-	0162	448088	8	24	100	31.0	301,500.00
SRVV-	0163	450143	8	25	100	31.0	301,500.00
SRVV-	0164	430620	8	26	100	31.0	301,500.00
SRVV-	0165	450144	8	27	100	31.0	301,500.00
SRVV-	0166	448133	8	28	100	31.0	301,500.00
SRVV-	0167	448089	8	29	100	31.0	301,500.00
SRVV-	0168	468232	8	30	100	31.0	301,500.00
SRVV-	0169	448091	8	35	100	31.0	301,500.00
SRVV-	0170	448134	8	37	100	31.0	301,500.00
SRVV-	0171	433101	8	38	100	31.0	301,500.00
SRVV-	0172	433102	8	40	100	31.5	258,500.00
SRVV-	0173	448455	8	41	100	31.5	258,500.00
SRVV-	0174	430642	8	45A*	50	22.5	143,200.00
SRVV-	0175	430643	8	45B*	50	22.5	143,200.00
SRVV-	0176	461562	8	46	100	31.5	258,500.00
SRVV-	0177	430645	8	47B*	50	22.5	143,200.00
SRVV-	0178	461568	8	48	100	31.5	258,500.00
SRVV-	0179	461569	8	49	100	31.5	258,500.00
SRVV-	0180	433104	8	50A*	50	22.5	143,200.00
SRVV-	0181	433105	8	50B*	50	22.5	143,200.00
SRVV-	0182	461571	8	53	100	31.5	258,500.00
SRVV-	0183	451724	8	55	100	31.5	258,500.00
SRVV-	0184	433103	8	56	100	31.5	258,500.00
SRVV-	0185	415798	8	58	100	31.5	258,500.00
SRVV-	0186	461572	8	59	100	31.5	258,500.00
SRVV-	0187	430621	8	60	120	31.5	258,500.00
SRVV-	0188	461573	8	61	100	31.5	258,500.00
SRVV-	0189	451725	8	65	100	31.5	258,500.00
SRVV-	0190	451675	8	67	100	31.5	258,500.00
SRVV-	0191	415802	8	68	100	31.5	258,500.00
SRVV-	0192	415804	8	70	100	31.5	258,500.00
SRVV-	0193	468237	9	50A	84	23.0	187,400.00
SRVV-	0194	468238	9	50B	62	23.0	158,800.00
SRVV-	0195	461574	9	51	118	23.0	221,100.00
SRVV-	0196	430623	9	52	60	23.0	125,300.00
SRVV-	0197	415808	9	53	60	23.0	145,700.00
SRVV-	0198	415809	9	54	60	23.0	145,700.00
SRVV-	0199	415810	9	55	60	23.0	145,700.00
SRVV-	0200	415811	9	56	60	23.0	145,700.00
SRVV-	0201	451726	9	57	60	23.0	156,200.00
SRVV-	0202	461615	9	58	60	23.0	137,800.00
SRVV-	0203	451727	9	59	60	23.0	145,700.00
SRVV-	0204	430624	9	61	60	23.0	149,300.00
SRVV-	0205	430625	9	62	60	23.0	149,300.00
SRVV-	0206	430626	9	63	60	23.0	149,300.00
SRVV-	0207	430628	9	65	60	23.0	149,300.00
SRVV-	0208	430630	9	67	60	23.0	149,300.00
SRVV-	0209	415812	9	73	60	23.0	149,300.00
SRVV-	0210	415813	9	74	60	23.0	158,200.00
SRVV-	0211	415816	9	77	60	23.0	158,200.00
SRVV-	0212	461576	9	80	119	23.0	256,700.00
SRVV-	0213	468183	11	20	110	31.5	275,300.00
SRVV-	0214	468184	11	22	110	31.5	297,300.00
SRVV-	0215	468185	11	24	110	31.5	275,300.00
SRVV-	0216	468186	11	26	110	31.5	275,300.00
SRVV-	0217	468187	11	28	110	31.5	275,300.00
SRVV-	0218	468189	11	32	110	31.5	275,300.00
SRVV-	0219	468190	11	34	110	31.5	275,300.00
SRVV-	0220	468191	11	36	110	31.5	275,300.00
SRVV-	0221	468192	11	38	110	31.5	275,300.00
SRVV-	0222	468193	11	40	110	31.5	275,300.00
SRVV-	0223	468500	11	48	110	31.5	275,300.00
SRVV-	0224	468195	11	50	110	31.5	275,300.00
SRVV-	0225	468196	11	52	111	31.5	275,300.00
SRVV-	0226	468204	11	60	126	31.5	296,100.00
SRVV-	0227	468197	11	62	120	31.5	288,300.00
SRVV-	0228	468198	11	64	120	31.5	288,300.00
SRVV-	0229	468199	11	66	120	31.5	257,175.00
SRVV-	0230	468200	11	68	120	31.5	257,175.00
SRVV-	0231	468202	11	74	120	31.5	247,725.00
SRVV-	0232	468203	11	76	120	31.5	247,725.00
SRVV-	0233	415818	14	125	50	22.5	98,700.00
SRVV-	0234	415821	14	126	50	22.5	98,700.00
SRVV-	0235	415822	14	127	116	22.5	177,900.00
SRVV-	0236	415823	14	128	50	22.5	88,100.00
SRVV-	0237	415824	14	129	50	22.5	88,100.00
SRVV-	0238	415825	14	130	50	22.5	88,800.00
SRVV-	0239	415826	14	131	50	22.5	98,700.00
SRVV-	0240	415827	14	132	50	22.5	98,700.00
SRVV-	0241	415828	14	133	95	22.5	152,700.00
SRVV-	0242	415829	14	134	100	22.5	158,700.00
SRVV-	0243	415830	14	135	50	22.5	98,700.00
SRVV-	0244	415831	14	136	50	22.5	98,700.00
SRVV-	0245	415833	14	138	50	22.5	98,700.00
SRVV-	0246	415836	14	141	50	22.5	98,700.00
SRVV-	0247	415839	14	144	50	22.5	98,700.00
SRVV-	0248	468149	15	25	80	28.5	157,275.00
SRVV-	0249	468148	15	27	80	28.5	157,275.00
SRVV-	0250	468147	15	29	80	28.5	157,275.00
SRVV-	0251	468177	15	31	80	28.5	157,275.00
SRVV-	0252	468176	15	33	80	28.5	157,275.00
SRVV-	0253	468175	15	35	80	28.5	157,275.00
SRVV-	0254	468174	15	37	80	28.5	157,275.00
SRVV-	0255	468173	15	39	80	28.5	157,275.00
SRVV-	0256	468172	15	41	80	28.5	157,275.00
SRVV-	0257	468171	15	43	80	28.5	157,275.00
SRVV-	0258	468168	15	53	80	28.5	157,275.00
SRVV-	0259	468167	15	55	80	28.5	157,275.00
SRVV-	0260	468165	15	69	80	28.5	157,275.00
SRVV-	0261	468164	15	71	80	28.5	157,275.00
SRVV-	0262	468163	15	73	80	28.5	157,275.00
SRVV-	0263	468159	15	81	80	28.5	157,275.00
SRVV-	0264	468175	15	85	80	28.5	157,275.00
SRVV-	0265	468155	15	89	80	28.5	157,275.00
SRVV-	0266	468207	23	83	60	23.0	170,500.00
SRVV-	0267	468208	23	84	60	23.0	170,500.00
SRVV-	0268	468209	23	85	60	23.0	170,500.00
SRVV-	0269	468213	23	89	60	23.0	170,500.00
SRVV-	0270	468214	23	90	60	23.0	170,500.00
SRVV-	0271	468216	23	92	60	23.0	170,500.00
SRVV-	0272	468217	23	93	60	23.0	170,500.00
SRVV-	0273	468218	23	94	60	23.0	170,500.00
SRVV-	0274	468219	23	95	60	23.0	170,500.00
SRVV-	0275	468220	23	96	60	23.0	170,500.00
SRVV-	0276	468221	23	97	60	23.0	170,500.00
SRVV-	0277	468223	23	99	60	23.0	170,500.00
SRVV-	0278	468224	23	100	60	23.0	170,500.00
SRVV-	0279	468226	23	102	60	23.0	170,500.00
SRVV-	0280	468227	23	103	60	23.0	170,500.00
SRVV-	0281	468228	23	104	60	23.0	170,500.00
SRVV-	0282	451656	23	110	60	23.0	170,500.00
SRVV-	0283	448096	23	111	60	23.0	170,500.00
SRVV-	0284	451657	23	112	60	23.0	170,500.00
SRVV-	0285	451658	23	113	60	23.0	170,500.00
SRVV-	0286	451659	23	114	60	23.0	137,000.00
SRVV-	0287	451660	23	115	60	23.0	137,000.00
SRVV-	0288	451662	23	117	60	23.0	137,000.00
SRVV-	0289	448097	23	118	60	23.0	137,000.00
SRVV-	0290	448098	23	119	60	23.0	137,000.00
SRVV-	0291	448099	23	120	60	23.0	137,000.00
SRVV-	0292	448100	23	121	60	23.0	137,000.00
SRVV-	0293	448101	23	122	60	23.0	137,000.00
SRVV-	0294	451663	23	123	60	23.0	137,000.00
SRVV-	0295	448102	23	124	60	23.0	137,000.00
SRVV-	0296	448103	23	125	60	23.0	137,000.00
SRVV-	0297	446895	23	126	60	23.0	137,000.00
SRVV-	0298	451664	23	128	142	23.0	233,200.00
SRVV-	0299	448104	24	59	150	31.5	266,000.00
SRVV-	0300	448105	24	61	150	31.5	266,000.00
SRVV-	0301	461583	24	65	150	31.5	266,000.00
SRVV-	0302	451669	24	69	150	31.5	266,000.00
SRVV-	0303	461553	24	74	150	31.5	251,000.00
SRVV-	0304	448278	24	78	150	31.5	251,000.00
SRVV-	0305	451665	24	79	150	31.5	251,000.00
SRVV-	0306	451666	24	81	150	31.5	266,000.00
SRVV-	0307	446898	24	83	150	31.5	266,000.00
SRVV-	0308	415764	1A	1	106	31.5	223,600.00
SRVV-	0309	430588	1A	2	100	31.5	207,000.00
SRVV-	0310	415765	1A	3	100	31.5	207,000.00
SRVV-	0311	415772	1A	6	100	31.5	207,000.00
SRVV-	0312	415768	1A	7	100	31.5	207,000.00
SRVV-	0313	415769	1A	8	100	31.5	206,000.00
SRVV-	0314	415770	1A	9	100	31.5	207,000.00
SRVV-	0315	448431	1A	10	100	31.5	207,000.00
SRVV-	0316	448432	1A	11	100	31.5	207,000.00
SRVV-	0317	430589	1A	12	100	31.5	207,000.00
SRVV-	0318	446881	1A	15	100	31.5	207,000.00
SRVV-	0319	448425	1A	16	100	31.5	207,000.00
SRVV-	0320	451678	1A	19	100	31.5	207,000.00
SRVV-	0321	448132	1A	20	100	31.5	207,000.00
SRVV-	0322	433093	1A	21	100	31.5	207,000.00
SRVV-	0323	446883	1A	22	100	31.5	207,000.00
SRVV-	0324	448131	1A	23	100	31.5	207,000.00
SRVV-	0325	461555	1A	30	100	31.5	207,000.00
SRVV-	0326	461556	1A	31	100	31.5	207,000.00
SRVV-	0327	461557	1A	32	100	31.5	207,000.00
SRVV-	0328	450075	1A	36	100	31.5	207,000.00
SRVV-	0329	448113	1A	37	100	31.5	207,000.00
SRVV-	0330	448277	1A	38	100	31.5	207,000.00
SRVV-	0331	450076	1A	39	100	31.5	207,000.00
SRVV-	0332	448114	1A	40	100	31.5	207,000.00
SRVV-	0333	448426	1A	41	100	31.5	207,000.00
SRVV-	0334	407402	1B	1	109	31.5	218,000.00
SRVV-	0335	451680	1B	2	100	31.5	207,000.00
SRVV-	0336	448116	1B	3	100	31.5	207,000.00
SRVV-	0337	448427	1B	4	100	31.5	207,000.00
SRVV-	0338	448428	1B	5	100	31.5	207,000.00
SRVV-	0339	448429	1B	6	100	31.5	207,000.00
SRVV-	0340	461681	1B	9	100	31.5	207,000.00
SRVV-	0341	433091	1B	11	100	31.5	207,000.00
SRVV-	0342	415774	1B	13	50	23.0	122,000.00
SRVV-	0343	415775	1B	14	50	23.0	122,000.00
SRVV-	0344	415777	1B	16	50	23.0	122,000.00
SRVV-	0345	415778	1B	17	50	23.0	122,000.00
SRVV-	0346	415779	1B	18	50	23.0	122,000.00
SRVV-	0347	407521	1B	20	73	23.0	142,700.00

GENERAL GUIDELINES

1) Interested buyers are required to submit an "Offer to buy" to the Manager, Disposition of Assets Department , 5f RPAMS, GSIS Building, Financial Center, Pasay City.

2) Each offer/proposal shall be accompanied by a DEPOSIT IN CASH or CERTIFIED CASHIER'S/MANAGER'S CHECK issued in Metro Manila,payable to the GSIS in the amount equivalent to at least Ten (10%) Percent of the total offer price.

3) Properties will be sold on **"AS IS, WHERE IS BASIS"** and the buyer shall take possession of the property without seeking assistance from the GSIS.

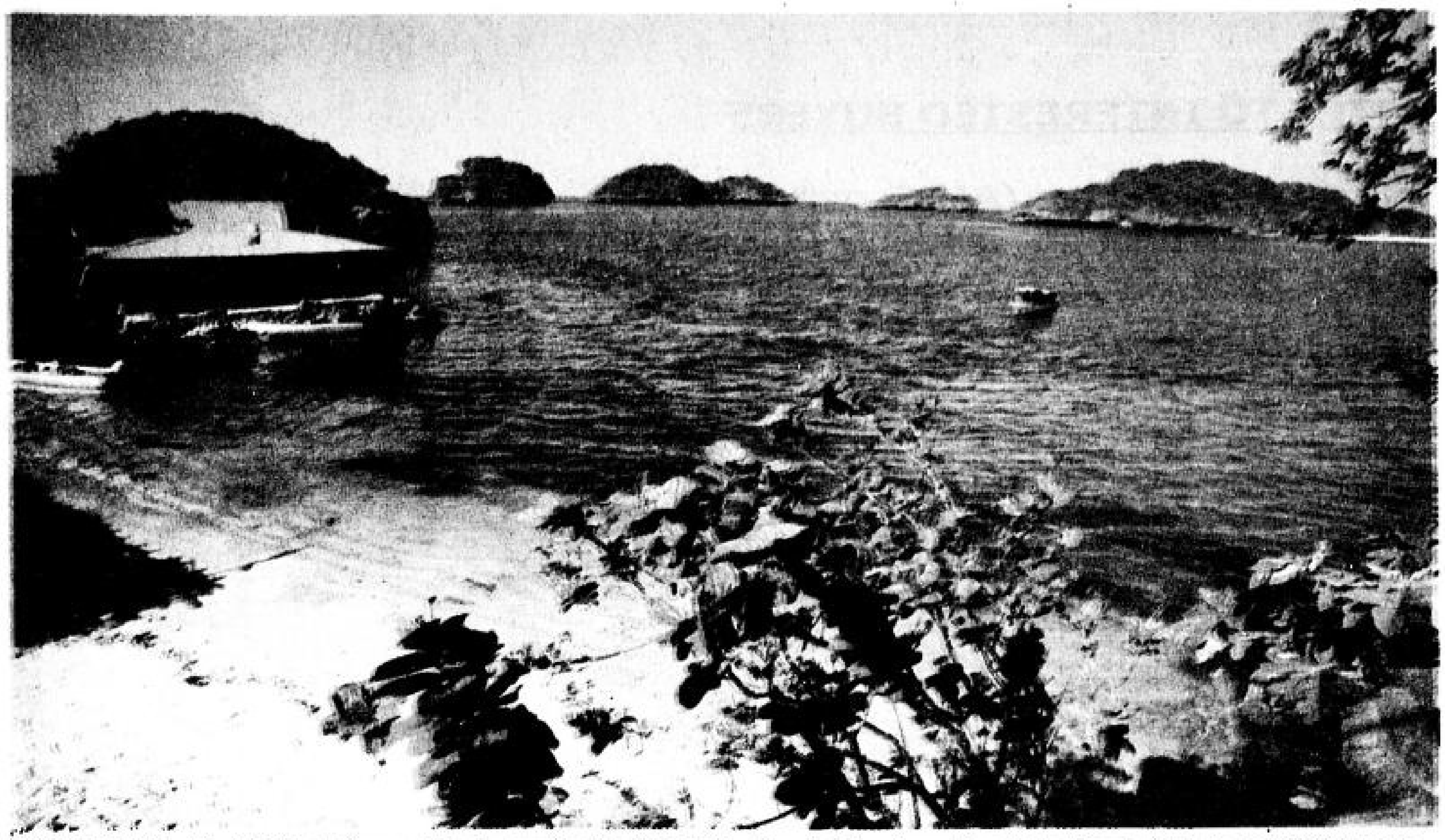
4) If the buyer who submitted the best offer refuses to push through with the purchase of the property for which he/she made an offer, his/her proposal deposit will be **FORFEITED** in favor of GSIS.

5) A buyer by submitting an offer to buy, shall be deemed to have inspected the property and is aware of the physical and legal conditions of the property.

6) The GSIS reserves the right to reject any or all offers, to waive any informality found therein or to accept any proposal which in its judgement is advantageous to the GSIS.

7) ALL AWARDS BY THE GSIS ACQUIRED ASSETS EVALUATION COMMITTEE (AAEC) ARE FINAL.

(Sgd.) **ARNALDO C. CUASAY**
Senior Vice President
Housing and Real Property Development Group



THE LARGEST of the 123 islets, Quezon Island, once the tourists' destination of choice, is now in a state of neglect where every little breeze carries a whiff of urine. Other tourist destinations like Boracay, Palawan and Oriental Mindoro had long ago overtaken the islands. RYAN LIM

Hundred Islands to woo tourists

From page A1

Taking diplomats on a tour of the islands last week, Braganza handed out "Adventure Hundred Islands" T-shirts and caps as he spoke about the re-launch—to be timed with the fiesta season in May—of the island cluster back among the country's top tourist attractions.

Braganza has made the revival of the Hundred Islands as an eco-tourism destination his priority since winning the mayorship last year, when the former congressman and Cabinet secretary made a surprising exit from the national stage and returned to small-town politics.

Actually made up of 123 islets, the Hundred Islands Natural Park was the country's first and largest marine ecosystem to be declared a protected area during the Quezon administration.

Up until the 1960s, it was considered the premier sand-and-sea destination in Luzon, with at least 15 of the islets boasting white sand beaches, and accessible by a 25-minute motorboat ride from the Pangasinan mainland.

Only three islands—Quezon, Children's and Governor's—are built up, with fixed structures for tourists. The rest boast largely unexplored caves, coves and thick vegetation accessible only to migratory ducks, resident bats and an occasional hawk.

Marine theme park

The 1,800-hectare cluster is being "repositioned" as a marine theme park that can host educational, family-oriented and nature-friendly activities.

"We are determined to bring back the magic of the islands," Braganza said.

Some of the islands, for instance, will be connected using a high-tech system of "floating bridges" that would encourage more outdoor pursuits other than swimming or boating.

Braganza assured future guests that all the planned enhancements would not pollute or harm underwater life. A "no-touch policy" is to be observed, meaning "no permanent structures will be built" in order to protect the vegetation and natural formations, he said.

The islands will also be off-limits to commercial activities. But the ban would actually result in a more pleasurable arrangement as the selling of food, souvenirs and other merchandise would be done from boats, as is done in Thailand, said the mayor.

Investing in a comeback

The city government is trying to work out a system for it to be able to "co-manage" the islands with the Philippine Tourism Authority and Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

It has also allotted an initial P6 million for the planned improvements, and is now drafting an incentives code for private investors who would like to invest in the Hundred Islands' comeback bid.

With Alaminos currently offering a lodging capacity of about 150 hotel rooms, some enterprising businessmen could help add to the figure by renting out "house boats" anchored near the islands, Braganza said.

Overtaken

Over the past decade, the Hundred Islands group was "overtaken" by other tourist destinations further south like Boracay, Palawan or Oriental Mindoro's Puerto Galera.

"We failed to catch up on trends and developments. Would you believe that the Hundred Islands postcards that you can buy today still bear the same photograph shot during the Marcos years?" said Braganza.

Tourist arrivals and earnings took a sharp dip, particularly with the departure of the islands' frequent, big-spending visitors: GIs from the old United States military bases in the Pampanga and Zambales provinces.

Arrivals swelled but only for about two years from 1998 to 2000 during the administration of President Fidel V. Ramos, a native Pangasinense and Braganza's uncle.

Thanks to the successful "Islands Philippines" marketing blitz under Ramos, the island group reached a peak of 100,000 visitors a year during that period, the mayor recalled.

But the figure has since settled at just around 80,000 a year, the mayor noted.

The slump forced many coastal residents to engage in illegal fishing, which went on unabated and destroyed the coral beds, a virtual mockery of the islands' "protected" status.

"It came to a point when dynamite explosions out there in the sea served as our alarm clock every morning," said Braganza.

Domestic tourists for now

Braganza confidently declared that dynamite fishing has been effectively curbed, at least in the waters covered by the Hundred Islands National Park, since he launched a crackdown and beefed up police patrols last year.

But fishermen who poison the depths with cyanide and who operate silently using air compressors as their breathing apparatus are proving to be elusive, he admitted.

To discourage such destructive practices, the Hundred Islands revival program will not be all about tourism but will have a "livelihood component." The master plan designates aquaculture zones in waters outside the park, where there will be sections devoted to oyster or seaweed farming, for example.

But the mayor said capital and support from the private sector would be needed to really attract "high-end" foreign tourists.

The campaign to revive the islands as a tourist draw is directed mainly at domestic visitors for now.

"We have actually been careful [with the promotions] especially when we started out last year because there might be a backlash over expectations that we cannot meet," said Braganza.

Visiting envoys

"We want to pump in some more money first from local tourists. Imagine if we can just start with Pangasinan itself, if we can just attract 10 percent of its 2.4 million population and have each of them spend at least P100 when they come here. That's easily P24 million," he said.

On Jan. 8, Alaminos City hosted a select group of VIPs from foreign embassies in Manila who made a side trip to the Hundred Islands the day before they gathered for the 60th anniversary of the landing at Lingayen Gulf by Gen. Douglas MacArthur.

Lots of help from FVR

Not surprisingly, Ramos was also present to help his nephew with the sight-seeing tour, even going snorkeling to check on the growth of giant clams being cultivated in the shallow waters as part of the islands' rehabilitation.

The ex-President noted that Alaminos is on the same latitude as Honolulu, Hawaii, and could therefore offer sunny weather most of the year, especially to visitors from temperate regions wishing to escape the cold winter months.

Nida lawyer seeks new probe of ex-general

From page A1

The interest in Kintanar's alleged link to the Blanca murder case has been sustained by a web of witnesses and suspects, all of whom had been connected to him at one time or another.

Pates and Gonzaga were police witnesses who said that Medel had asked them separately if they knew of an assassin who could be hired to kill an actress. Both men had allegedly stayed in Medel's rented apartment in Quezon City.

Rodriguez was a former Kintanar aide who testified that he, engineer Vicente "Dodong" Polinar and Medel had tailed Blanca for a month before her murder.

American in cowboy hat

Salutin, a former security guard of Kintanar, had told investigators that he had seen an American wearing a cowboy hat walk in and out of Kintanar's apartment in Quezon City sometime in September or October 2001.

He said he later learned that the foreigner was Blanca's husband, Rod Lauren Strunk, when he saw him on TV.

Throughout the investigation, Kintanar had vigorously denied any involvement in the Blanca murder. He had stated categorically: "Believe me, I have nothing to do with this."

Kintanar's name first surfaced after the owner of an apartment used by Medel in Quezon City told reporters that the unit had been rented by the retired general.

Medel had claimed he was an "asset" of the Isafp and the Philippine National Police.

Kintanar said that an "asset" or anyone who provides the Isafp information was "a friend," and that he had come to know Medel only in this sense.

Distant relative

The former spy chief had described Medel as "a friend of the intelligence organization" and at one point, as a "distant relative."

"I am not disowning a friend but I disown linkage to what he was doing," Kintanar said in 2001.

Reports also cropped up that Kintanar was engaged in casino financing, an accusation that he also denied.

"I am not a gambler. I have no money to gamble or to lend to gamblers," he said.

He said Medel's "companions" had sought his permission to use an apartment that his family was renting in Kamias sometime in August or September 2001. He said he agreed to maintain the apartment in his name to avoid the hassle of transferring it.

Kintanar, who was Isafp chief from 1988 to 1991, is said to be a "highly secretive" individual but one who is respected in the intelligence community.

Young officers described him as "one of the old-school warriors" who could "disappear" into walls.

Journalists described him as someone who was as "elusive as an eel." It was also said that he knew all the names and faces of reporters.

Damage control

Witnesses Pates and Gonzaga, who both had stayed in Medel's Quezon City apartment, had also testified that a retired colonel, Benny Letrondo, had suggested that they think of "an effective damage control" to keep Kintanar's name from being dragged into the case.

This meeting allegedly took place in Kintanar's Quezon City home in November 2001, before Medel retracted his confession that he had killed Blanca on the orders of Strunk.

The statements of Pates and Gonzaga have been submitted as supplementary evidence to the murder charges filed against Strunk, Medel and several others for the actress' murder.

In August 2002, reports came out that Kintanar was tracking down Salutin, a key witness in the Blanca murder case.

Two security aides of Kintanar, both of whom were armed, went to the rented home of Salutin, according to a policeman guarding the witness.

But the aides failed to get any information on the witness' whereabouts, PO3 Ranerio Cruz said in an affidavit.

Cruz also disclosed that after Kintanar's aides left, a staffer of the Gaitano Security Agency, which is owned by Kintanar, called Salutin's home and asked about him.

In August 2002, the National Bureau of Investigation said Kintanar should formally clarify his relationship with Medel.

Under surveillance

The NBI summoned Kintanar for questioning that same month after Rodriguez, a new witness, emerged. Identified as a trusted aide of Kintanar, Rodriguez said in a sworn statement that he, Polinar and Medel had placed Blanca under surveillance a week before she was killed.

Rodriguez said it was Polinar who bought an old Mitsubishi Galant that they used to spy on Blanca.

Kintanar denied Rodriguez's allegations, saying in a radio interview that Rodriguez was part of a conspiracy to mislead investigators. He said there could be efforts to divert the case's focus from the real suspects to him.

Hacking incident

Rodriguez had said that he went to the NBI after a certain Efren, allegedly another employee of Kintanar's, nearly hacked him to death in Tarlac.

But Kintanar said the hacking incident was Rodriguez's "own doing." He added that the latter was "a trouble maker."

In September 2002, Ricardo Diaz, the NBI spokesperson on the Blanca murder, said Kintanar had been interviewed by the bureau's agents but that no incriminating evidence was found against him.

"The bureau has no evidence against (Kintanar) so no case has been filed against him, as of now," Diaz had said.

Guyito smiles on ex-Air Force ...

From page A1

It did nine months later—in the unlikely form of a grinning carabao.

Galan, a former Air Force serviceman and taxi operator, emerged last week as the grand winner of the Guyito Wild Hunt, out of the thousands who sent in more than one million raffle entries bearing the ubiquitous INQUIRER mascot.

His prize: a brand-new black Toyota Altis.

"I jumped up and down all over the house," Galan said in Filipino, recalling his reaction on receiving the news.

His wife Necita said her husband was pale-stricken and looked as if he was on the verge of a heart attack.

Scam

Only nine months before, all hope and luck seemed to have abandoned Galan as he sat behind bars at the Pasay City jail, facing charges of estafa for his involvement in a pyramid scam.

In 2002, Galan was among the thousands—civilians, police, military and government agents—who were duped into investing millions in a fraudulent investment firm in Pasay City.

The scheme turned out to be a scam, promising the victims great returns on their investment, Galan said.

He had put in more than P1 million in Maria Teresa Santos Trading (MTST), with money collected from selling his taxi units, as well as his earnings as an Air Force driver and maintenance man.

To make matters worse for the couple, the MTST had recruited Necita as an encoder, and Galan got his Air Force colleagues to invest in the firm through his wife.

Altogether, Galan and his colleagues invested some P2.7 million in the company.

3 estafa cases

The promised returns never came, said Galan. What they got instead were bouncing checks plus, in his case, three estafa cases that led to his being dismissed from the service.

The lowest point came when Galan was detained in April 2004 after one of his Air Force superiors who had also invested in the scam charged him with estafa.

"It seemed my world [had] crashed," said Galan, the father of a 5-year-old boy, Jaybrix.

Selling prized Volks

But the Bicol native was not one to be easily daunted.

Galan sold his prized 1973 Volkswagen to pay for his lawyer's fees and bail bond, a decision that he said "hurt" a lot.

He was finally released in June 2004. Two of the three cases against him have since been dismissed, with only the third pending before Branch 112 of the Pasay City Regional Trial Court.

He has also asked his lawyer to file the documents needed for his reinstatement in the Air Force.

In the meantime, with no money and no job, Galan was faced with the problem of feeding his family.

"I almost went mad with worry about how to pay the bills," he said.

To make ends meet, Galan took all sorts of odd jobs, from part-time mechanic to stand-in taxi driver. He and his wife also put up a small barbecue stand in their front yard.

A hunch

Their sympathetic landlord waived the P1,000 monthly rent on the small house that the Galans rent in West Bicutan, Taguig.

Last September, while browsing through the INQUIRER'S Classifieds Ads section for job postings, Galan came across the Guyito Wild Hunt promo.

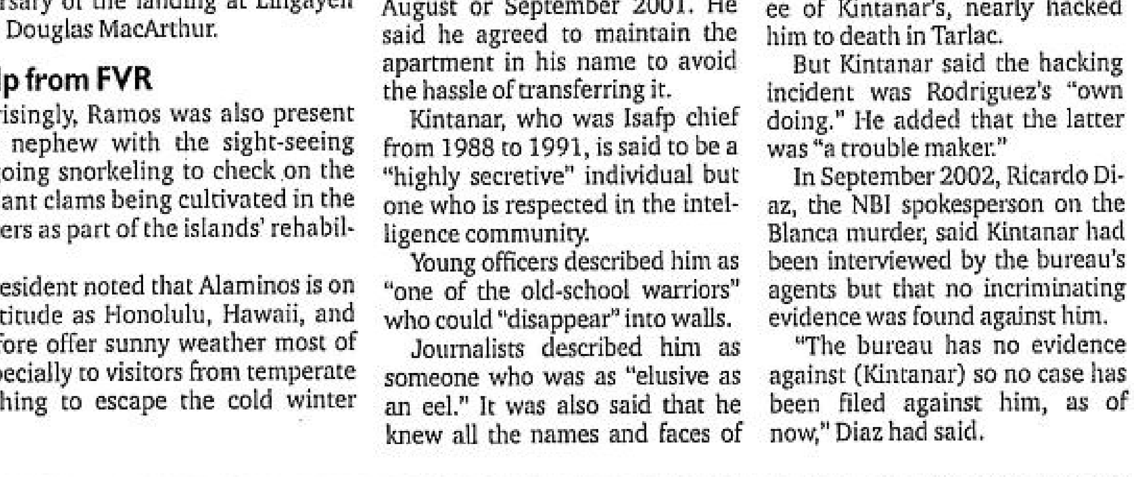
"I had a hunch that I was going to get lucky," he said.

He went to his former Air Force colleagues asking them to help him collect the raffle entries.

Galan said he sent in about 200 raffle entries. He even took one of the promotional posters and taped it to a wall in his room, he said.

"Many people told me I was crazy, but I knew my luck would come," he said.

Three days before Christmas, Galan was at home preparing barbecue for selling when the INQUIRER rang to tell him the good news.



ROMY HOMILLADA

GRAND prize winner of the search for Guyito Wild Hunt contest, Manuel Galan, and his wife Necita drive off from the INQUIRER parking lot with a brand new Toyota Altis, which to the once hard-luck couple means a new lease on life.

Award rites

Last Thursday, Galan finally received the keys to his Toyota Altis, after an awarding ceremony attended by INQUIRER executives and the winners of the other prizes.

"I was very, very happy," he said.

Galan said he had no immediate plans about what to do with the car, although he is considering selling it to buy a cheaper model so he could restart his taxi business.

But what was important, he said, was the chance he and his family have been given to make a new start.

As Galan walked toward his new car in the INQUIRER lobby, he stopped to pat a cardboard figure of Guyito, as if in tribute to the bearer of his good luck.

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Soprano lives to tell about her life beyond cancer

GOMEZ

SHE WAS given five years to live after she was diagnosed with retinoblastoma, an eye cancer which is one of the most prevalent in children worldwide.

The diagnosis was made when Joscephine Gomez was 2 years old. Currently, she is celebrating her 50th year as a cancer survivor, which is believed to be the longest in the Philippines.

After undergoing surgery under Dr. Jesus Tamesis Sr., Gomez was given five years to live, and then another ten, after which she was pronounced in remission.

"The cancer, not having recurred in 50 years statistically implies it never will," says Dr. Marvie Abesamis, head of the East Avenue Medical Center Tumor Clinic.

Gomez has since lived very productively and very confidently.

A consultant in communication, marketing, sales, negotiation and personal development of executives and other professionals, she has so far developed 24 seminar-workshops and is a much sought-after speaker in these areas.

Having conceptualized and developed a six-pronged wholistic approach for the treatment of voice disorders, she runs the country's first clinic for voice disorders: the Gomez Clinic for Voice Therapy and Rehabilitation (specializing in hyperfunction and hypofunction of the laryngeal mechanism), which she founded in 1995.

According to Gomez, her signature eye patch (which is often seen as a fashion statement), has been of much help to her, especially where recall matters.

Of all the things she does, it is her being one of the country's better-known sopranos that Gomez will be long remembered for.

Today, she will speak on Healing Thoughts at the National Cancer Survivors' Day celebration at Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church on Camerino St. Project 4, Quezon City.

She will also sing Henry Malotte's Lord's Prayer and Cesar Franck's Panis Angelicus, during the 11 a.m. thanksgiving Mass to be celebrated by Fr. Robert Reyes.

Gomez is the recipient of the 2003 Blue Falcon Award for Arts and Culture, the 2000 Gintong Sikap Award for Professional Leadership in 2000, the 1997 Parangal ng Bayan Award for Arts and Culture, and the Philippines' Longest-living Cancer Survivors' Award from the Kapisanan ng mga may "K" sa Pilipinas.

She is the founding president of the Retinoblastoma Foundation.

Gomez may be reached at 687-7898 or e-mail joscephine-gomez@yahoo.com.

Navotas: The small fishing town has outgrown its size

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

A GATEWAY for marine bounty, Navotas is key to getting fish from the sea to the rest of Metro Manila.

MITCH MAURICIO

YOU SEE stainless tricycles and pedicabs loaded with ice boxes and basins overflowing with fish.

You see people in rubber boots walking down streets, some of which may be under water even if it had not rained.

You look around and notice lamp posts, sidewalk railings and government posters all painted green. Even traffic enforcers and street sweepers are in green shirts.

You are in the coastal town of Navotas, which used to be part of Malabon.

But when nature carved a river along the coast of Manila Bay and separated 1,069 hectares from the mainland, Navotas was born.

The name itself came from the Filipino word "nabutas," which means pierced through.

99 years ago

However, township only came to that narrow strip of land 99 years ago today with the enactment of Philippine Commission Act No. 142.

Navotas, the second smallest town in Metro Manila, now has one of the highest population density rates in the metropolis. Latest estimates by the Municipal Hall say about 250,000 people live within its boundaries.

Though the three main roads (Road 10, C3 and C4) that connect Navotas to neighboring localities are wide enough, most streets in the town are narrow and crowded.

When Zenaida Magdael, 65, and her family were relocated from Tondo, Manila, to a reclaimed area in Dagat-Dagatan (now part of the Barangay North Bay Boulevard South) in 1979, the dirt roads in Navotas were wide.

"It was muddy and there were no houses," Magdael told the INQUIRER after joining the street parade on Friday in celebration of the town's anniversary.

The parade ended in front of the Municipal Hall on M. Naval Street, which she said used to be an empty space planted with a few stalks of gabi, making the sea still visible, decades ago.

Now, the view of the sea on the left side of the street is blocked by banks, branches of popular food chains and houses.

When progress crept in with the putting up of industries and the rise of government revenues, problems also set in.

Population ballooned and problems with informal settlers arose. Stilts were built on the shoreline, on the Navotas River and smaller waterways.

The Philippine Fish Port Complex established in the town has attracted and continues to attract people looking for livelihood.

"People came because of the fish port. Jobs are plentiful for the industrious," municipal planning officer Raffy Serrano said.

The fishing industry remains the biggest source of income for the local government and most residents in Navotas.

About 65 percent of the population are into fishing and related industries like ship building and repair, net making and sea products manufacturing, Mayor Toby Tiangco said.

When 37-year-old Leonardo Pascual was 9, he used to go to the sea with his father. Their house, where he lives until now, is on the shore in Barangay Sipac Almacen.

He maintains a fish pen and three motor bancas. Because of his skill in fishing, his neighbors have called him "Narding Galing."

But he complains that catching fish has become harder.

He blames dynamite fishing, which became rampant as early as 1989 when illegal settlers from the provinces started to arrive.

Never hungry

"Life was peaceful then. There were no dynamite fishers. Fishermen never experienced hunger," Pascual says, his thoughts still clear after several bottles of beer.

Pointing to a small ice box, he recalls how quickly it could be filled with fish. Today, it takes them at least four hours.

Though much have changed, some practices remain. Pascual and fellow fishermen smile as they describe the "bulungan (whisper) system" in selling their catch.

At the fish port, bids for fish are whispered to a contact to keep it secret from competitors.

The contact then tells the fisherman the highest bid for his catch.

Aside from the fishing, the town is also known for almost daily flooding, rain or shine.

During extreme high tide, water from the sea and the rivers flows into the streets. But aside from blaming nature, residents and officials are blaming informal settlers clogging drainage systems.

"The road fronting the Municipal Hall used to be free of floods. Now, it gets flooded," said Serrano, who has been working for the municipal government for two decades.

Tiangco also considers flooding as the biggest problem, which has stunted the growth of the municipality.

"Development has been slow because of flooding. That is what we want to solve permanently," Tiangco said.

In the meantime, residents have learned to live with this problem.

Rubber boots are common. Pedicabs and tricycles are made of stainless steel, which does not corrode easily.

The Municipal Hall had been built on an elevated area, the elevation being as tall as a two-story building.

The Municipal Hall, the tallest building on the coastal town, also remains to be the symbol of the hopes longed for by its community.

METROBRIEFS

Manila remembers

MANILA Mayor Lito Atienza unveiled yesterday the Memorial Tomb of Children Killed Through Abortion in Moriones, Tondo, as part of the celebration of the feast of the Sto. Niño or the child Jesus. The memorial was built into a wall in front of the Sto. Niño Church in Moriones and sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. *Leila B. Salaverria*

Fall kills Atenean

ATENEO de Manila political science student Xavier Yu, 17, of M. Reyes Street, Xavierville Subdivision, Loyola Heights, died after he fell from Upper Penthouse B of Burgundy Building on Katipunan Avenue at about 6 p.m. Friday. He died while on the way to the Quirino Memorial Medical Center due to severe head injuries, police said. Police said Yu got off balanced while trying to sit on the railing of the condominium unit on the 24th floor owned by a certain Harold Lu. *Tina G. Santos*

Guard shot in Ortigas lot feud

By Luige del Puerto

THE RICH have plenty of things to fight over. This time, it is over parking space crucial to a school, a condominium and a commercial establishment inside the Ortigas Center in Pasig City.

This dispute over the parking space on Pearl Drive turned ugly yesterday morning.

A security officer from the Superb Security Agency, reportedly owned by a son of Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis Chavit Singson, was shot in the right shoulder at about 10:30 a.m., the police said.

The security officer, Jelly Deoneda, 56, is now recuperating in a nearby hospital, the police said.

A police report said: "a Mr. (Leonardo) Umali approached the victim and confronted him to vacate the parking lot (on) Pearl Drive. Jelly Deoneda then fired his shotgun when he sensed that he was being mobbed by the latter's group."

"At that instant, when Mr. Umali's companions were backing off, Jelly Deoneda was hit by a bullet," the report, penned by PO2 Rolando Lipata, said.

Umali's group and that of Casimiro Ynares III, son of Rizal Gov. Casimiro Ynares, are reportedly fighting for control of the parking space in front of the Pearl Plaza and Manila Luxury buildings.

The parking fee in the area is at least P30.

Pearl Plaza hosts coffee shops and restaurants, while Manila Luxury is a residential condominium where Ynares reportedly owns a unit.

The parking area is just a few paces from the University of Asia and the Pacific.

Control of the parking area is believed crucial because whoever controls it could control the flow of people in the area.

The Umalis reportedly managed the parking area until their contract with the Ortigas management expired.

The Ynares group was then apparently awarded the contract to manage the parking area. The Umalis resisted and went to court.

Yesterday, there seemed to have been an attempt by the Ynares group to take over the whole stretch. A confrontation took place and eventually ended with the security officer getting shot.

The INQUIRER tried to talk to Ynares but he was unavailable.

Vickie Umali, matriarch of the Umali clan, lamented during a press conference that the Ynares group made the move without any authority, especially one from the court.

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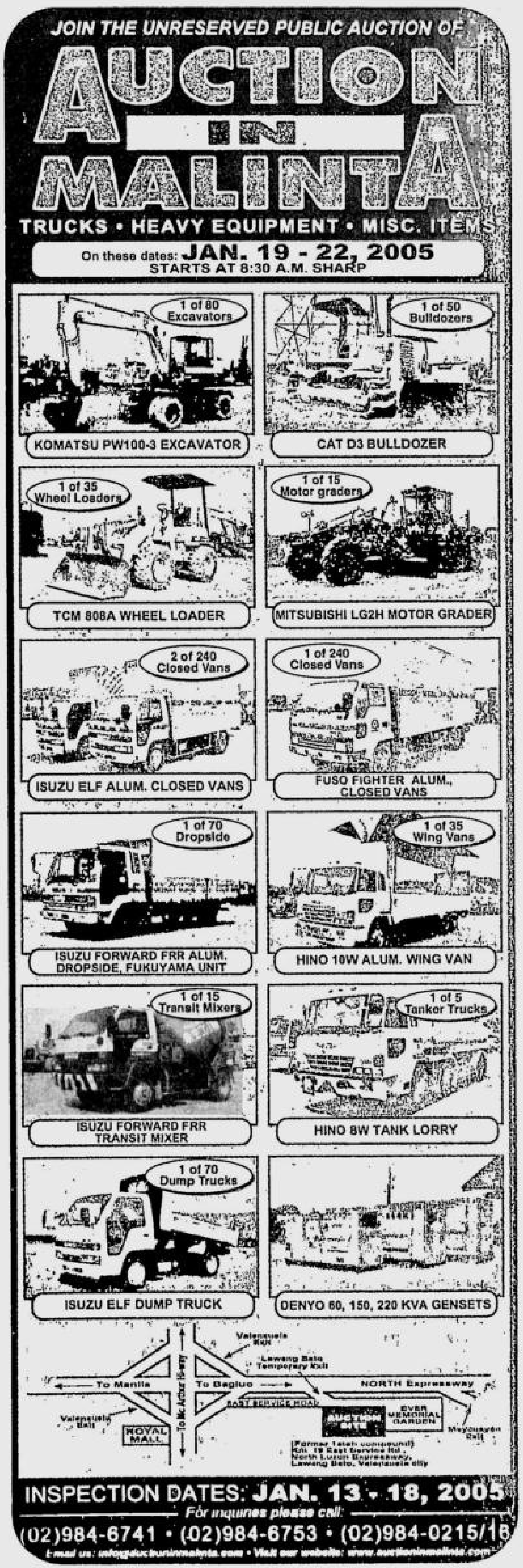
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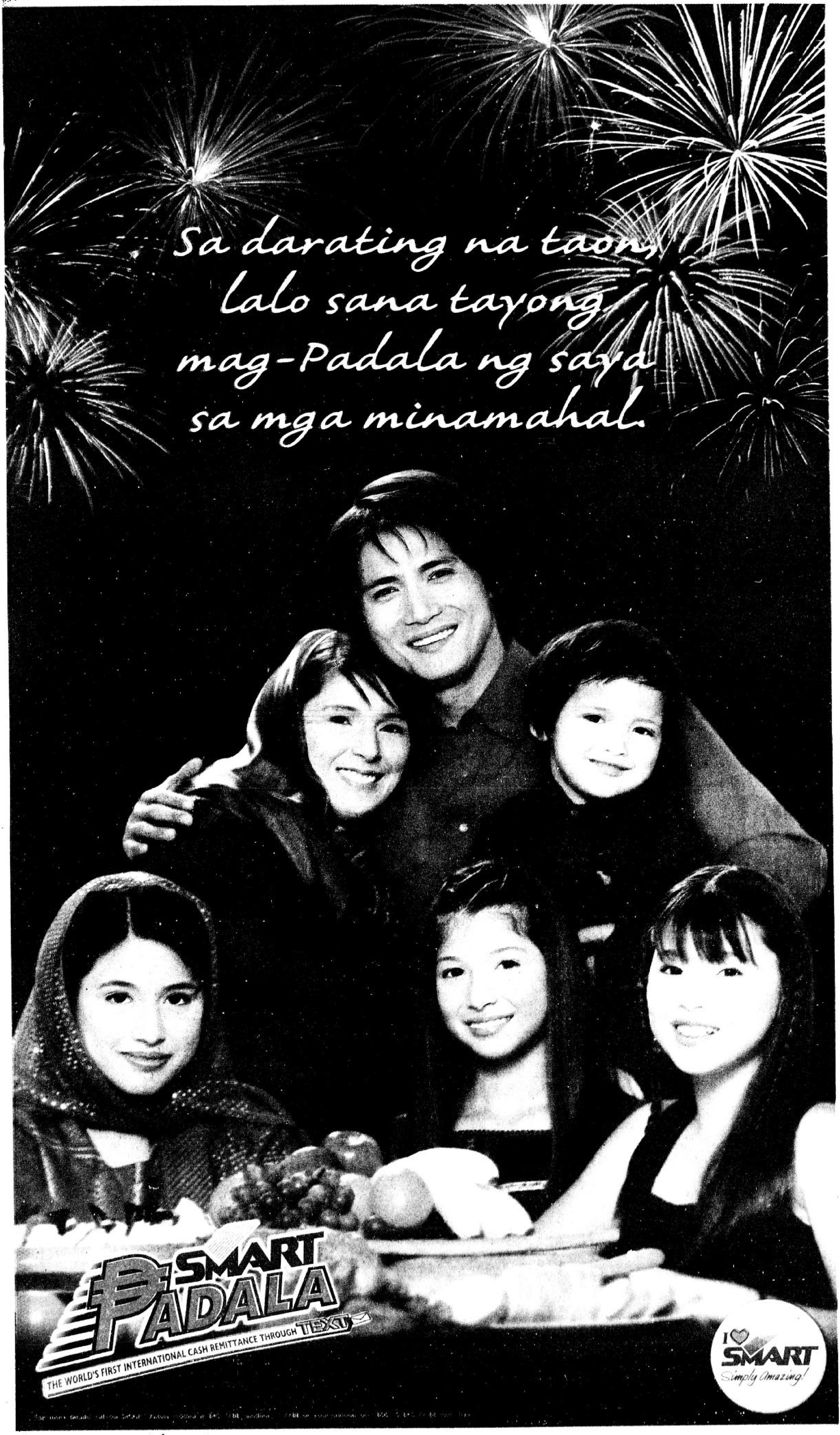
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Editor **Teddyvic S. Melendres**

SPORTS TV Compiled by L. Mangulat

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: NFL–AFC Divisional Playoffs–Jets vs Steelers; 5:30 a.m.; Colts vs Steelers; tomorrow at 5:30 a.m.; ESPN–New York looks for an upset against Pittsburgh while Indianapolis takes on defending champion New England tomorrow.

BASKETBALL: NBA–Suns vs Spurs; 9 a.m. (r-5:30 p.m.); Nets vs Mavs; 12 noon (r-9 p.m.); Solar Sports–Western heavyweights Phoenix and San Antonio collide while New Jersey visits Dallas.

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

AMATEUR BOXING

‘Govs for Gold’ launched for Beijing Olympics 2008

Salven L. Lagumbay, *Contributor*

GOVERNORS, through the League of Provinces of the Philippines, are set to launch their own project aimed at producing the first Olympic boxing gold medallist in 2008 and 2012.

Dubbed the “Governor’s National Amateur Boxing Circuit,” it is a long-term program aimed at providing much-needed support for amateur boxers, which will be separate from the programs of the Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines.

Since the inception of the Olympic Games, the Philippines won only five boxing medals since its participation in the 1932 Olympics namely : Cely Villanueva–Bronze– 932 Olympics; Anthony Villanueva–Silver–1964; Leopoldo Serrantes–Bronze–1988; Roel Velasco–Bronze–1992; and Mansueto Velasco– Silver–1999.

“That is hardly something that we would be proud of in our 72 years of participation in the Olympics,” says North Cotabato Gov. Emmanuel Piñol, the main proponent of the program.

PIÑOL

The group lamented the problems that are hounding amateur boxing in the country. Cited were the lack of sustainable grassroots program; lack of good amateur boxing trainers and training program fit for international competition; flawed selection process; and slow turnover of amateur boxers.

As part of its strategy, the GNABC is conducting trainer’s training; conducting a nationwide grassroots amateur selection process; and acquiring the services of the best coaches available, perhaps a Cuban or a European.

Boxers will be divided into the following weigh category: Pinweight (45 kgs), Light-Flyweight (48 kgs), Flyweight (51 kgs), Bantamweight (54 kgs), Featherweight (57 kgs), Lightweight (60 kgs), Light-Welterweight (64 kgs) , and Welterweight (69 kgs).

All boxers in the Governors National Amateur Boxers Training Pool will participate in the Olympic Pre-qualifying Tournaments to earn Olympic berths.

The GNABC will be held on an annual basis to ensure its sustainability. The ABAP will be tapped to assist the Governors Boxing Circuit in the technical aspect.

There will be a Barangay elimination, with the winners advancing to the Municipality/City eliminations. Winners will then move on to fight in the Provincial, then in the Regional Level and finally in the National Finals.

Participating provinces will shell out P100,000 annually, while the Office of the President will give out P500,000 counterpart fund per province. The private sector will also be tapped for assistance.

Late this month, the group is scheduled to submit the proposed Executive Order to President Macapagal-Arroyo for her approval and signature.

Gold, silver and bronze medal winners in the national boxing competition will compose the national pool, which will be relocated to a training camp.

Each boxer will receive a monthly stipend and will be allowed to pursue studies while training.

The program will guarantee an Olympic champion P5M, silver medalist P3M and bronze medalist P1.5M.

WHAT’S INSIDE

San Mig, Shell gun for semis berths tonight /A26

O’Neal, Iverson give their teams a boost /A28

1st Carl Ching Men Ky caging slated in Manila /A30

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Cebuana Lhuillier players undergo fitness test

LORDY Tugade of Red Bull Barako and five players from Cebuana Lhuillier yesterday took the physical fitness test called by national coach Chot Reyes for members of the RP training pool at the Moro Lorenzo Sports Center.

Ginebra's Mark Caguioa was unable to undergo the tests due to a recurring injury, but is likely to attend the session this weekend at the soonest, along with four Talk 'N Text players.

Willie Miller, Jimmy Alapag, Yancy de Ocampo and Mark Telan of the Phone Pals have requested for a postponement owing to their cramped practice schedule.

Invited players from San Miguel Beer, Alaska, Purefoods, and Sta. Lucia Realty remained unavailable.

"I'm confident that we will get everyone next week," said Reyes. "That's why we have a two-week window, precisely to give allowances for the differences in schedules."

Reyes had a chance instead to take a look at five players from Cebuana Lhuillier - Nino Canaleta, 6-foot-9 Eman Samigue, shooter Emer Saldiua, J.R. Gerilla, and Pep Moore - after they took the tests on Reyes' invitation.

With the blessing of Commissioner (Noli) Eala, we have begun exploring ways to integrate the program that we have in mind with the program that's already in place with Cebuana Lhuillier," said Reyes.

"Hopefully, this is a first step towards wider cooperation. I'm sure there will be a lot of synergies between the PBA program and that of Cebuana Lhuillier, so that in the end, there will be only one program."

Amateur mentor Boysie Zamar, who will join the RP-PBA coaching staff, accompanied the five Lhuillier players.

Reyes was set to meet with league coaches last night, and will present the revised RP team program to the Board of Governors tomorrow noon at the PBA office in Pasig.

TUGADE PDI PHOTO

Decimated PSC team faces UST

By Musong R. Castillo

A PSC side with a huge personnel shortage slugs it out with Santo Tomas today, trying to make do with nine players heading into the crucial phase of the Shakey's V League eliminations at the Rizal Coliseum.

STANDINGS	W	L
Santo Tomas	7	1
La Salle	7	1
PSC	5	3
Lyceum	4	4
Letran	3	4
Far Eastern	1	7
San Sebastian	1	8

GAMES TODAY
(*Rizal Coliseum*)
1 p.m.—Letran vs Far Eastern
3 p.m.—Santo Tomas vs PSC

"We're taking it game by game from hereon," said PSC coach Tats Suzara on the eve of their highly anticipated rematch with the defending champions at 3 p.m.

"The only guarantee I can give is that we will fight like there's no tomorrow."

The Lady Legends lost attacker Teresa de la Rosa to an ACL tear and are still awaiting the return of starting setter Len-Len Escollante from Canada.

Escollante, a member of the 1993 Southeast Asian Games gold medal-winning team, is scheduled to arrive tonight, but Suzara still does not have an idea if a pinched nerve in his setter's neck has healed fully.

PSC will come into the match smarting from a straight sets loss to Letran on Thursday and would need a win to assure itself of the third spot in the semifinals.

"We were really off on Thursday. I tried doing all sorts of things to no avail," Suzara added. "It was one of those days."

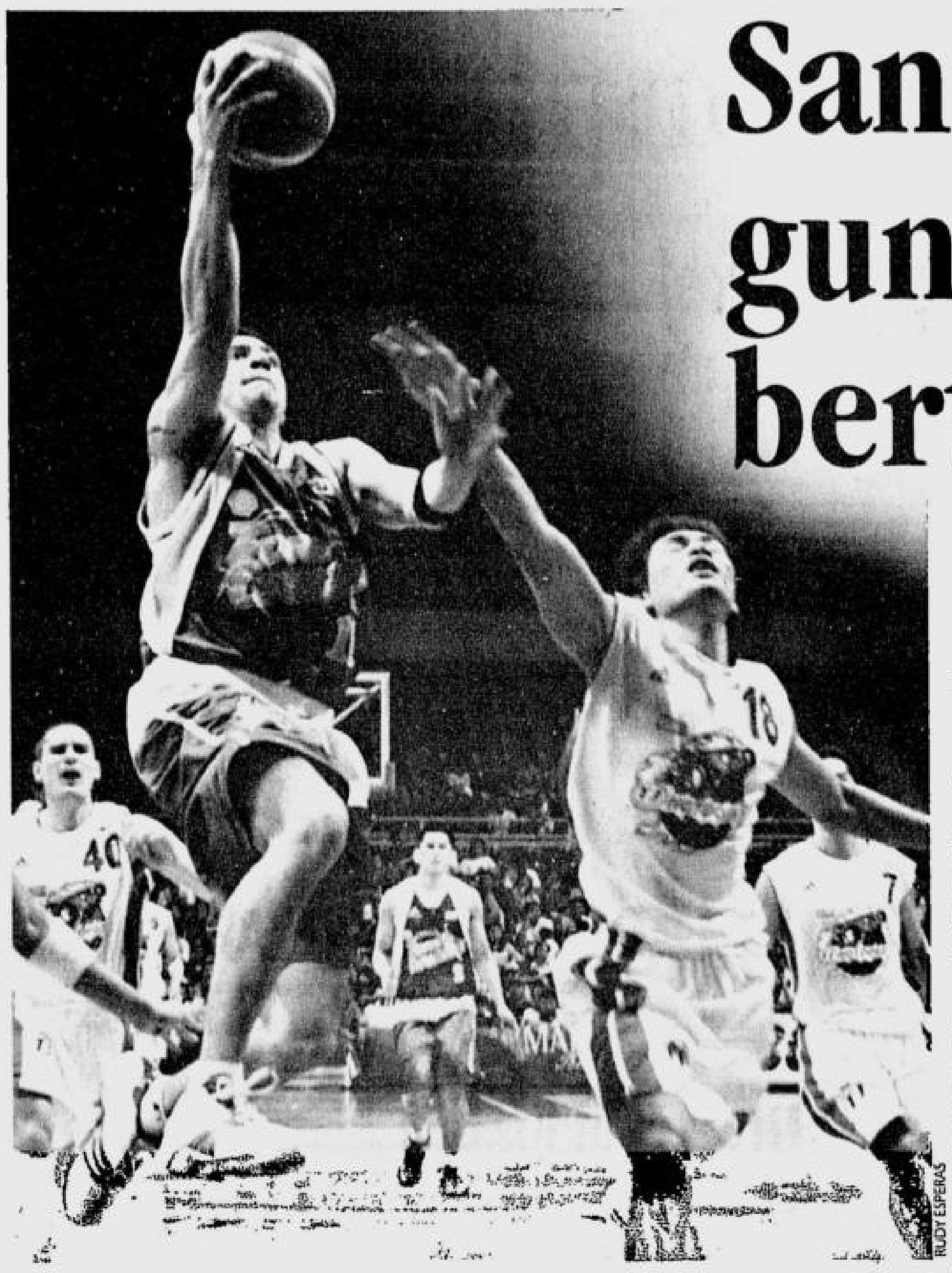
The Tigresses are tied for the lead with idle La Salle at 7-1 and a win would enhance their chances of nailing top ranking and the lightest assignment in the final four.

Letran, meanwhile, shoots to pull abreast of Lyceum in fourth, colliding with also-ran Far Eastern in the first game at 1 p.m.

The Lady Knights and the Lady Pirates are left to contest the final slot in the semis, the first three having been conceded to the Tigresses, the Lady Archers and the Legends.

Meanwhile, the Letran-Far Eastern duel will be shown at 8 tonight on IBC-13 with the PSC-Santo Tomas match to be aired tomorrow beginning at 8 p.m., also on Channel 13.

The organizing SVMGI (Sports Vision Management Group Inc.) has decided to air the games on primetime to further give the sport a mainstream appeal.



RUDY ESPERAS

SHELL'S Kalani Fereria hopes to finish off James Yap, Noy Castillo and the Hotdogs.

San Mig, Shell gun for semis berths tonight

GAMES TODAY (*Araneta Coliseum*)
(*Game 2 of best-of-three quarterfinals*)
4:10 p.m.—Alaska vs San Miguel Beer
6:30 p.m.—Purefoods vs Shell

THERE'S no doubt Alaska and Purefoods are capable of coming back.

The Aces were once at the tailend of the standings before winding up fourth after the elimination round while the TJ Hotdogs were never even considered to be a contender in the playoffs when the season started.

San Miguel Beer and Shell will keep these in mind when they gun for semifinal seats today in Game 2 of the Gran Matador PBA Philippine Cup best-of-three quarterfinals at the Araneta Coliseum.

Fresh from an 81-77 triumph in the series opener, the Beermen will try to finish off the Aces to face the top-seeded Barangay Ginebra Kings in the best-of-five semifinals.

The Turbochargers are hoping to accomplish the same and meet the No. 2 Talk 'N Text Phone Pals in the next phase after defeating the TJ Hotdogs in Game 1, 71-69, Friday night.

"We must anticipate what form of adjustment they [TJ Hotdogs] will make," said Shell coach Leo Austria.

Tony dela Cruz will again be a marked man while Billy Mamaril is hoping to outwit Kerby Raymundo and Richard Yee in the paint once more.

Ronald Tubid, who missed the last two outings of the Turbochargers, is still a doubtful starter after pulling a hamstring against Talk 'N Text more than a week ago.

"We're just one step away from the semis and we will not just relax and waste the opportunity," said Austria, who brought back the Turbochargers in the quarterfinals after five fruitless conferences.

June Navarro

PACQUIAO BOUT ALIBI

Morales' father won't train Erik

By Salven L. Lagumbay, *Contributor*

IS THE CAMP of Erik Morales now working on the groundwork of a major alibi should the Mexican champ lose to Manny Pacquiao on March 19?

This developed after it was learned yesterday that Morales' father, who has been training him since he started boxing at a young age, would not be able to supervise his training in preparation for the Pacquiao showdown at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas.

Jose "Olivaritos" Morales has mentioned that unlike in previous years since 1996, he will not be personally supervising his son's rigid preparation at the Centro Ceremonial Otomí, where his son will be training for the Pacquiao bout.

"I have been suffering from diabetes, and that's the reason why in this occasion I will not be with my son in training", said the elder Morales in an interview with Box-latino from his base in Tijuana, Mexico.

MORALES AP

For Jose Morales, it will be the first occasion that he will be absent from his son's training at the mountain of the State of Mexico, where he has been training since 1996.

"In eleven years I will not be going up the Otomi for the first time, but my health is my priority. The altitude in Temoaya puts me in a great risk," he said.

Boxing pundits have sensed something familiar, as Marco Antonio Barrera, who was knocked out by Pacquiao when they met, had also reasoned out that he lost to the Filipino champ after his training was disrupted by the wildfires that gripped Los Angeles prior to their November 2003 battle.

Meanwhile, a stellar undercard to the Pacquiao-Morales showdown is being prepared by Top Rank as long-reigning World Boxing Council junior flyweight kingpin Jorge Arce (38-3-1, 28 KO's) moves up in weight to challenge WBC flyweight ruler Pongsaklek Wongjongkam (54-2, 29 KO's) of Thailand in a 12-round brawl. The bout pits two power-punching gladiators in what might prove to be another classic war.

In another bout, Arce's vacated title will be disputed by former WBC minimumweight champion Jose Antonio Aguirre (33-2, 20 KOs) and Panamanian Roberto Vasquez (18-1, 15 KOs).

RP football bounces back strong

By Johnny Romualdez, *PFF President*

THE MOST significant "happening" in Philippine Football in 2004 was the first and only victory of the National Senior Team in the Tiger Cup, Southeast Asia's most prestigious football tournament.

In four previous stints, the best the Nationals could do was tie lowly Cambodia, 1-1, in the 1998 version. The worst was a 13-0 drubbing from Indonesia in 2002.

Last December, the Philippines registered a 2-1 win over newcomer East Timor after being down, 0-1, going into the last five minutes of the match. It wasn't only the win that made the 2004 Tiger Cup showing the best ever for an RP team. In its first match, Coach Aris Caslib's boys drew eventual qualifier Myanmar in regulation time but lost on a heartbreaking injury-time goal. In its last match, the Filipinos gave the defending champion Thai team a big scare by scoring first to go up, 1-0, tying them at the half, 1-1, before finally bowing, 3-1. All these three RP goals were scored by speedy striker, Chippy Caligdong.

The year 2004 was also kind to the Women's team. They nearly qualified for the semis of the Asean Football Championships, beating Singapore, 2-1, and losing, 1-0, to Indonesia, then 4-1 to eventual runner-up Vietnam.

Coach Hans Smit's Women's Under-19 National Team performed creditably in the Asian Women's U-19 Championships, dumping Guam, 4-0, before being routed by eventual champion Korea and second placer China.

There was so much local football that it was described by some as a "football explosion."

ROMUALDEZ

After failing to organize a single women's competition in 2003, the PFF organized two in 2004, a Women's Open and a Women's U-19, both held in Marikina. A Men's Open and a Men's U-19 were also held, each with provincial elims culminating in National Finals.

The younger age levels suffered a setback in 2004 when Coca-Cola announced very late that it would discontinue the 20-year-old "Coke Go For Goal" competitions for under-16 boys, creating a void in that age group. However, the Red Ribbon Football Festivals went on its 2nd year, with a record 29 provinces participating. So did the 5-year-old Kasibulan Grassroots Competitions, with more than 300 municipal-based football fiestas taking place nationwide.

The Mindanao associations inaugurated a "Liga Mindanao" for club teams in the region in 2004. The Monfort Cup continued in the Visayas while Luzon activities were largely concentrated in Metro Manila. RIFA held its regular tournaments for boys, expanding into activities for girls and into more frequent fiestas. The Alaska Cup of the Lozano family went on as scheduled, together with their annual excursion to Gothia.

NCRFA organized a Samsung Competition and held its annual Globe Supercup for 1st and 2nd division Manila-based teams. In Metro Manila, the PFF sanctioned a "Play Soccer, Make Peace" competition for Senior Teams. For the Youth, the PFF sanctioned and helped run the Metro Football National League.

The PFF also organized the first ever National Futsal Finals in Iloilo City. In the Bago City Football Center, with NOFA president Charlie Cojuangco as sponsor, a coaching course for the centers of excellence and a course for competition administrators were held.

Spearheaded by the Youth Development Committee of Mario Domingo, the PFF organized a first-ever "Football Night" that served as a fund-raiser and inauguration of the PFF president.

On the financial front, FIFA released the 1st tranche of its 2nd "$1 million every 4 years," while AFC and AFF continued with modest subsidies.

Pagcor halved its support to Kasibulan while the PSC began to pay its debt to the PFF, even funding the international participation of the Men's and Women's teams.

Sponsorship of adidas remained strong while Red Ribbon stayed steady. Superferry, Petron and Aboitiz One came in in 2004, allowing for expanded activity.

On the promotional front, major dailies delivered media exposure never before seen in local football.

Promoter Ed Formoso dressed up events to highlight sponsors and attract spectators and participants.

The PFF wish list for 2005? Surely a medal or two during the SEA Games is on top of that list. But for the long-run improvement of football in the Philippines, unity and oneness of purpose is still the most desirable ingredient. Tsinoys, Pinoys, and Tisoys are involved in the game but it is possible to be united. We are Filipino Footballers All!!!

Generals aim to extend run

Games Monday (*Pasay Sports Complex*)
9 a.m.—EAC vs RTU
10:30 a.m.—CDSL vs Arellano

TOP QUALIFIER Emilio Aguinaldo College seeks to continue its winning run when the quarterfinal round of the 12th National Capital Region Athletic Association (NCRAA) men's basketball tournament begins Monday at the Pasay Sports Complex.

The EAC Generals, who finished the elims with a 6-0 win-loss slate in Group A, tackle Rizal Technological University at 9 a.m.

A battle of tactics is expected as Generals coach Nomar Isla takes on the cunning and more prominent Loreto Tolentino, who steered RTU to a 6-2 card in Group B.

Tolentino, who piloted Philippine Christian University to its first ever crown in another league, gave RTU a slot in the quarterfinals.

The Rizaleños made it to the quarterfinals after they hurdled PATTS College of Aeronautics, 70-68, and Philippine School of Business Administration, 66-61, in their last two encounters.

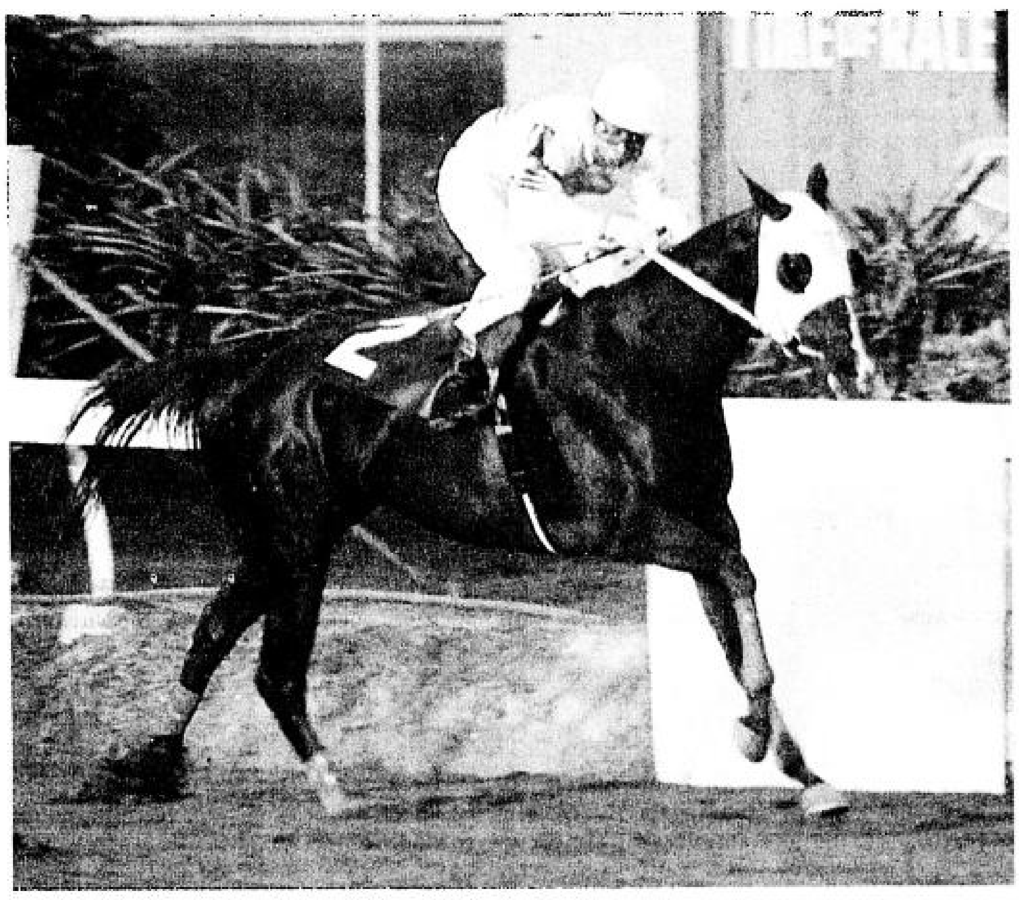
Colegio de San Lorenzo takes on newcomer Arellano University at 10:30 a.m., with consultant Bonnie Garcia expected to be around again to help the CDSL Griffins overcome the Flaming Arrows of Leo Isaac.

The Griffins took their place in the quarterfinals after scoring a 61-47 win over defending champion St. Francis. The Generals are banking on the scoring prowess of veteran Nino Songco.

ESGUERRA CITED

Banner racing year grosses ₱8.6B sales

JIMMY Dilag: Another record-breaking year in the offing. Jockey of the Year Patti Dilema (below) rides Ouzu to victory in the Philracom Open. PDI PHOTO



By Edwin Villanueva
Contributor

AFTER galloping through another banner year, local racing is expected to achieve another record-breaking feat in 2005.

Total sales the past year reached an all-time high P8.65 billion, a breakthrough which the Philippine Racing Commission believes could be surpassed anew in the new season.

"We are hopeful that last year's record sales could be easily broken but we can only realize that if we get the same solid support from the industry's major individual players, associations and the betting public. We are very grateful to all of them," said Philracom chair Jimmy Dilag.

Dilag added that sales this year could breach the P9-billion mark, an indication that the industry is very much alive and kicking.

The same staunch support given by President Macapagal-Arroyo and the lawmakers who backed the Philracom's programs also contributed to the industry's success, according to Dilag.

At the same time, the Philracom chief also congratulated horseowner Hermie Esguerra who was feted by the Philippine Sportswriters Association for his major role in uplifting the industry.

Esguerra was awarded the prestigious PSA Citation Thursday night not only for emerging as the country's winningest horseowner but for his magnanimous deeds as well.

Also getting an award was Pat Dilema whom the PSA named Jockey of the Year for the fourth straight time.

Likening the success of local racing to Esguerra, Dilag said he sees another victorious campaign in 2005 for the well-known horseowner.

"I think Mr. Esguerra will play another major part in the industry. And I think his stable would emerge No. 1 again," said Dilag, adding Esguerra has a big chance of winning this year's Triple Crown series.

As the annual battle among the country's top 3-year-olds looms, the Esguerra Stable is seen by many to achieve its goal in the series through the talented colt Real Spicy.

Real Spicy emerged as the finest 2-year-old colt in 2004, hauling in P2.8 million of the unprecedented P42 million which Esguerra's powerhouse stable earned for the year.

"*Hindi ko pa nakukuha ang* Triple Crown," said Esguerra, who is also Real Spicy's breeder. *Sana suwertehin tayo* this year (I have yet to win the Triple Crown. Hopefully, we'll get lucky this year)."

Dilema, who bagged his seventh PSA award overall , also believes that Real Spicy has all the ability to hurdle the three-leg test.

"*Malaki ang tiwala ko kay* Real Spicy. *Magdarasal ako na sana makaraos* (I have a lot of faith in Real Spicy. I'll pray that we can pull it off)," said the 26-year-old Dilema who partnered Real Spicy in all of his major triumphs last year.

Dilag added that more major stakes races with juicier prizes and incentives will make up the racing calendar this year.

"We're also expecting foreign investors in the coming months so I guess this will be a very busy year for the racing industry," added the former commissioner and pelotari.

HERMIE Esguerra: Cited by PSA for his contributions to horse racing ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

PRCI ready to launch Championship Series

ENSURING a year-round schedule of top quality races at the country's premier racing venue, Philippine Racing Club Inc. (PRCI) is set to launch starting next week an innovative race series focusing on the country's finest thoroughbred racers.

Dubbed as the Santa Ana Park Championship Series, the P3-million racing extravaganza involves six top-caliber stakes races scheduled to take place at the Santa Ana Park throughout the year. The series will consist of five legs from January to October culminating in a Championship Race on New Year's eve (Dec. 31).

The five legs have been tentatively scheduled for Jan. 23, March 6, June 5, Sept. 11 and Oct. 23, and each race will carry a guaranteed pot of P440,000 sponsored by PRCI. The Championship Race, meanwhile, carries a total guaranteed purse of P690,000.

As a gesture of goodwill, all guaranteed prizes for the six races will be immediately paid during the awarding ceremonies following the conclusion of each featured race.

Participation in the Santa Ana Park Championship Series is by invitation only. To ensure a well-balanced field, free handicapping will be implemented in the setting of weights.

Meanwhile, the PRCI has also announced the list of invited runners for the 1st leg of the Santa Ana Park Championship Series on Jan. 23. Heading the list are recent classic winners Empire King and West Bound, similarly assessed top weight of 56 kg. Next on the list is Red Star Rising (55 kg), followed by Cover Girl, Sexiest (AUS), Sound Offer (AUS), and Stowaway Lass 9 (AUS) with identical weights of 54 kg each.

Also invited were American Woman (AUS), Being There (AUS), Don Paolo, Free Wind, Key Apo (AUS), Lyonnais and Real Slew (AUS) with 53 kg each, as well as Crystal Show (AUS), Lord of All, Neat Laurel (AUS) and Suonos (AUS), with 52 kg each.

The 1st leg will be contested over a distance of 1,600 meters and carries a guaranteed winner's prize of P300,000. Declaration for the said race has been set for Tuesday, Jan. 18, at the PRCI Racing Dept., with a fixed fee of P2,000 per entry.

To further sweeten the pot, all declaration fees collected shall be accumulated by the Club until the Championship Race will be awarded to the horse that garners the most number of points during the duration of the series based on the following point system: Winner—5 points, 2nd—3 points, 3rd—1 point.

World Slasher 8-cocker lures record roster

A RECORD-BREAKING field of more than 100 local and international cockfighting stars gear up for the 2005 World Slasher Invitational 8-Cock Derby this Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday (Jan. 18, 20 and 22) at the air-conditioned Araneta Coliseum.

A total of 104 entries were registered in last year's WSC first leg, won by Rudy Salud and Lito Orillaza (Winning Time Jobo). Pol Estrellado and Boy Royo (PEBR Firefly I) and Honey Yu (CCL Binangonan) topped the second leg.

To host the prestigious event, hailed as the Olympics of cockfighting, are Big Dome owner Jorge "Nene" Araneta, NCA secretary general (on indefinite leave) Jun Santiago and Gov. Ito Ynares.

The foreign participants will be led by 2001 Slasher champion Roger Roberts of Georgia, current Sunset Game Club Cocker of the Year Joseph Wolcott, Johnny Moore, Kelly Green, Jimmy Cody and Larry Whitehead of Tennessee, Rene Medina, Emitt San Juan and Ric de Guzman from California and first timer Thomas Mischkus of Germany.

Ready to challenge them are Patrick Antonio, who will field six entries, Mindanao's Bebot Uy and Claude Bautista, former ambassador Danding Cojuangco, Reps. Rudy Albano, Ronnie Puno and Gerry "Boy" Espina, noted breeder Boy Jiao, Tony Marfori, newspaper publisher Butch Macasaet, JV Magsaysay, Jet Fernando, Jun and Rudy Jingco, Escalona Brothers, Madlambayan Brothers, Boyet Joson, Frankie Uy and Tony Tan.

This year's event is being sponsored by Univet, producers of Thunderbird Power Feeds. Part of the event's proceeds will be used to support NCA's 16 scholars.

RACING TIPS

AT SLLP BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Cunning Eagle 2. Ocean Dignity 3. Better Beth 4. Vinfa's Pride
Race 2—1. Hezabellaglo 2. Going Strike 3. Bukambibig 4. Lucky Beat
Race 3—1. Cara Dura 2. Nico's In Charge 3. Caden Dance 4. Gonfalon Story
Race 4—1. Golden Harry 2. Miltied Forever 3. Silver Dollar
Race 5—1. Throttle 2. Footwear 3. Pride of Masbate
Race 6—1. Oliver Sun Joy 2. Striker 3. Doña Gelay 4. Perfect Harry 5. Formidable Ella
Race 7—1. Paramount 2. Chariot of Fire 3. Marque
Race 8—1. Say It's True 2. Silver Music 3. Pitong Bakod 4. Maximus 5. Reign of Fire
Race 9—1. Speed Machine 2. Successful Dream 3. Guad/Earl Gray
Race 10—1. Guest House 2. Sound of the Wind 3. She's an Angel 4. Brenda Starr
Race 11—1. Valiant Queen 2. Kusang Loob 3. Storm Princess
Race 12—1. Bronte 2. Nitty Gritty 3. Windy City 4. Take Ten
Race 13—1. Conglomerate 2. Batang Kalookan 3. Arbiter 4. Homerun King 5. Ichiro 6. High Riser

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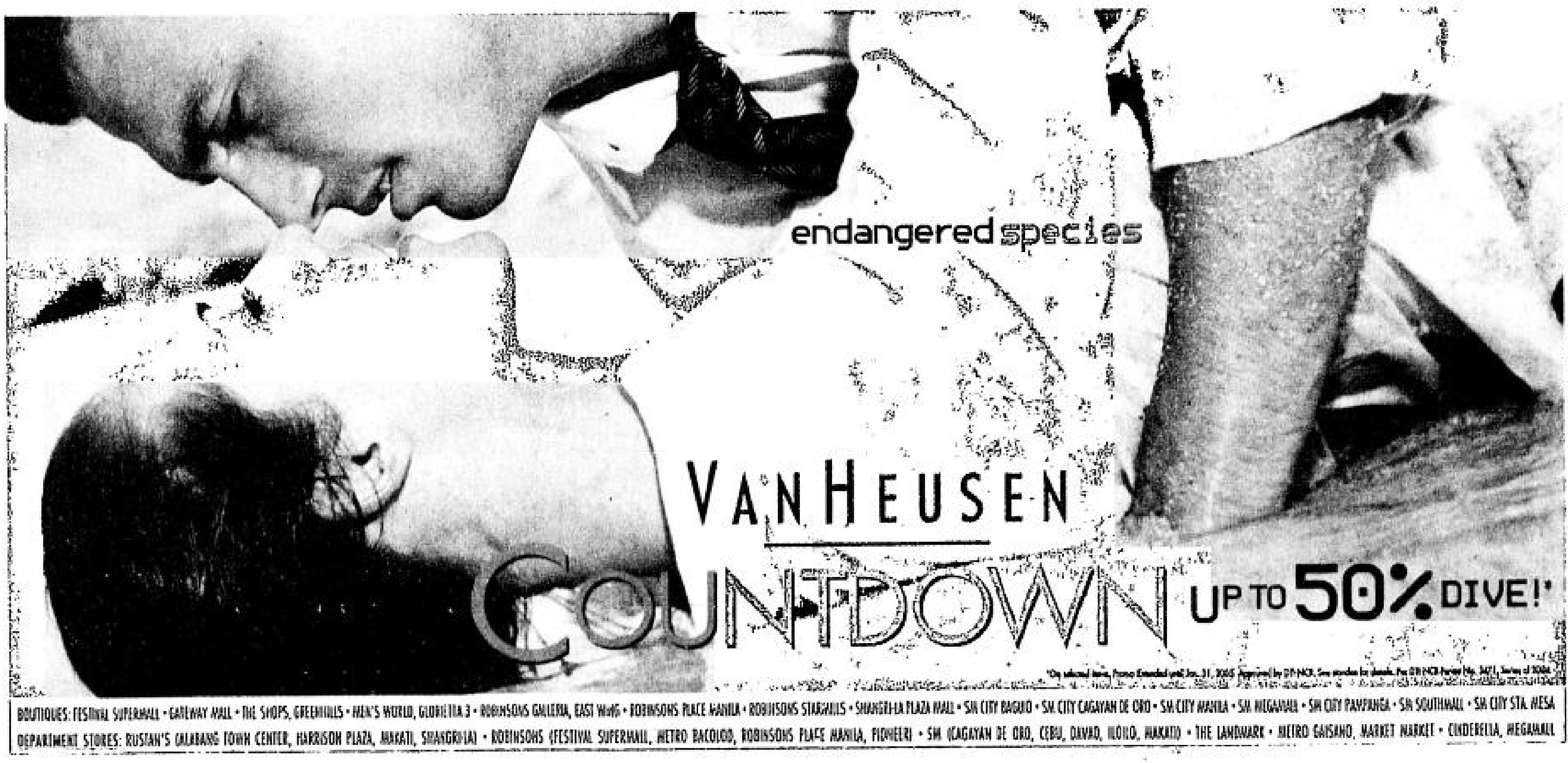

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1989 series of 2004

O'Neal, Iverson give their teams a boost

INDIANAPOLIS—Jermaine O'Neal had 29 points, 12 rebounds and six blocks to lead the Indiana Pacers to a 101-83 victory over Phoenix on Friday, only the second time this season the Suns have lost consecutive games.

Phoenix point guard Steve Nash left early in the second quarter with a bruised left thigh and did not return. Nash, who also had his nose bloodied in the first quarter, finished with 11 points in 11 minutes.

"Some people said we needed some adversity to become a good team," Suns coach Mike D'Antoni said. "Well there's some adversity for you."

Amare Stoudemire led the Suns, 124-89 winners over the Pacers on Sunday in Phoenix, with 26 points and 11 rebounds. Coming off a loss Wednesday night in Utah, Phoenix came up 10 points short of its previous season low—93 against Minnesota.

"We jumped out on them early instead of them jumping out on us," said Indian's Jamaal Tinsley, who had 18 points and three steals. "And we made shots so they couldn't run."

In Philadelphia, Allen Iverson scored 19 of his 32 points in the first quarter to help the 76ers beat Toronto, 106-96, and snap a three-game losing streak.

Kenny Thomas added 20 points and 14 rebounds, Iverson had 10 assists and Kyle Korver scored 15 points for the Sixers. Donyell Marshall scored 20 points, and Morris Peterson and Jalen Rose each had 18 for the Raptors.

In Charlotte, North Carolina, Pau Gasol scored 19 points, and James Posey had 17 as Memphis beat the Bobcats, 109-89, for its 10th victory in its last 13 games.

The Grizzlies, who started the season 9-15, had six players in double figures, and everyone in uniform scored. Shane Battier had 15, Jason Williams 14 and Earl Watson and Stromile Swift 10 each. Emeka Okafor had 17 points and 12 rebounds for Charlotte.

In Boston, Ricky Davis came off the bench to score 30 points, and Paul Pierce had 21 points and 15 rebounds as the Celtics routed Atlanta, 106-94, for its seventh win in eight home games.

Gary Payton added 15 points and seven assists for Boston.

Former Celtic Antoine Walker had a double-double for the sixth straight game by halftime. He finished with 21 points on 10-of-30 shooting and had 17 rebounds.

In New Orleans, Dan Dickau made six 3-pointers and scored a career-high 25 points to lead the Hornets over Portland, 112-106, for its third victory in four games.

IVERSON: Hot first quarter. AP

Baron Davis scored 22 points, including seven key free throws in the final 1:03, to help New Orleans (5-30) overcome Damon Stoudamire's 54-point performance.

Stoudamire set a career high and broke Geoff Petrie's franchise record of 51 points. The Portland star was 20-of-32 from the field and made eight 3-pointers.

The teams combined for 28 3-pointers, one short of the NBA record of 29 set in 1997 by Denver and Seattle.

In Auburn Hills, Michigan, Richard Hamilton scored 26 points, and Detroit held on to beat Orlando, 101-94, in Grant Hill's first game in Auburn Hills in nearly five years.

Hill scored 17 points, many on mid-range jumpers just like the shots he made as a Pistons star during his first six seasons in the NBA. Orlando's Steve Francis had 31 points, and rookie reserve Jameer Nelson added 17.

In San Antonio, Tim Duncan scored 25 points, Manu Ginobili added 22 and the Spurs got a crucial offensive rebound from Devin Brown to withstand a late Dallas rally and ice a 98-95 triumph.

Ginobili hit three crucial freethrows in the final 13 seconds for the Spurs, who let the freewheeling Mavericks rally from a 12-point fourth-quarter deficit.

Dirk Nowitzki led Dallas with 36 points.

In Milwaukee, Larry Hughes made a driving layup with 0.7 seconds left to lift Washington over the Bucks, 105-103, and put the Wizards eight games over .500 for the first time since 1979.

Hughes finished with 23 points, eight assists and five steals. The victory also gave the Wizards their first six-game winning streak in more than three years.

Michael Redd had 20 points for Milwaukee.

In Denver, Latrell Sprewell scored 13 of his 29 points in the fourth quarter to help Minnesota end a three-game losing streak with a 93-83 triumph marred by a fight between the Nuggets' Nene and Minnesota's Michael Olowokandi.

Olowokandi and Nene were ejected for fighting after getting tangled under the basket and throwing a series of wild punches late in the third quarter. The players also tangled in the second quarter, with Nene receiving a technical foul and Olowokandi getting a personal foul for holding Nene.

In Seattle, Ray Allen scored 22 points as the Sonics improved to 26-9 via a 103-84 demolition of Golden State, which lost its eighth straight game.

Antonio Daniels added 19 points for the Sonics. Speedy Claxton led the struggling Warriors with a season-high 27 points, one shy of his career high.

In Los Angeles, Corey Maggette hit an off-balance 23-foot shot with half a second left in the second overtime to lift the Clippers over Miami, 114-112.

His dramatic shot from the right sideline overshadowed a 39-point, 10-rebound performance by the Heat's Shaquille O'Neal. *AP*

Lleyton,
Gr

AUSTRALIAN star Lleyton Hewitt gets all pumped up during the men's sin final against Ivo Minar of the Czech Republic at the Sydney International te tournament. Hewitt won the match, 7-5, 6-0.

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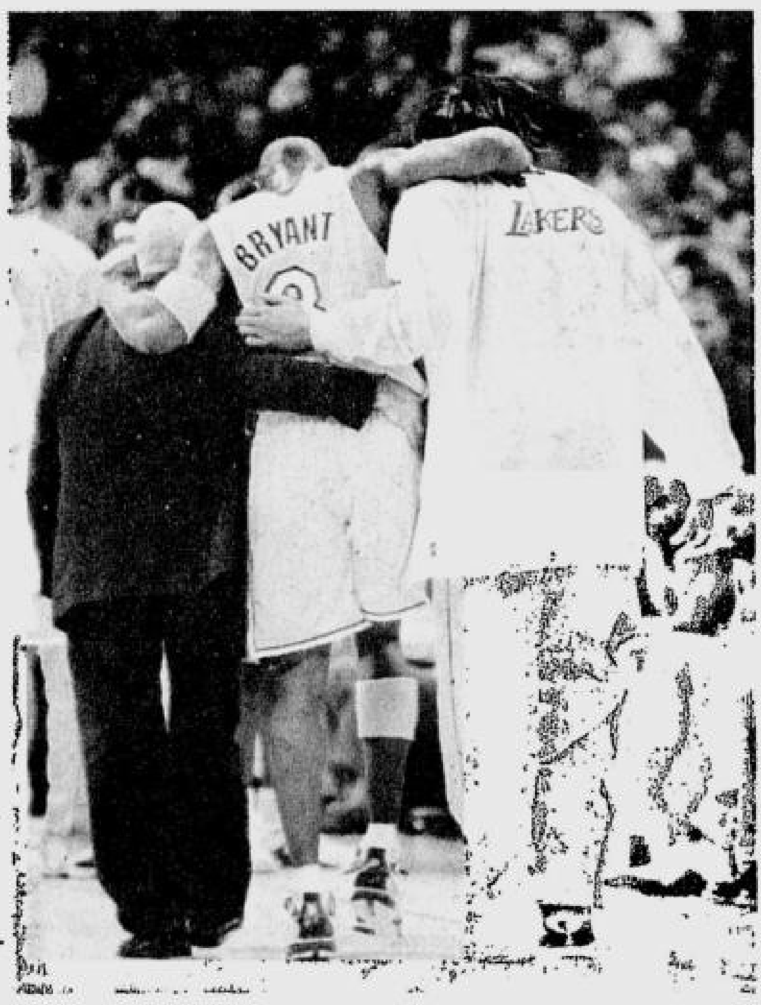
Kobe injury to test Odom meter


LOS ANGELES Lakers' Kobe Bryant is helped off the floor by trainer Gary Vitti, left, and teammate Brian Grant. AP

EL SEGUNDO, California—An MRItest confirmed Friday that beneath all that tightly bandaged swelling, Kobe Bryant has a badly sprained ankle that certainly will force him onto the injured list.

Medical science had nothing to report on what Lamar Odom has inside—although that's what a Lakers fan needs to know this morning.

"Everybody's got to step up their game," Odom was saying after practice. "It's not going to be just me."

Fair enough.

But Odom's actions will have to be a lot bolder than his talk in the time that Bryant is sidelined.

Whether or not he's comfortable with the thought, whatever becomes of the team's slim hold on a playoff spot will depend more on Odom than on any other Laker.

Bryant went up for a rebound midway through the first quarter of victory over the Cleveland Cavaliers on Thursday and came down on Ira Newble's foot. Bryant clutched his right ankle and buried his grimace in the hardwood. After he was scraped off the floor, he slung his right arm over Brian Grant's shoulders and his left arm over trainer Gary Vitti's and was helped to the locker room.

This is not one of those Kobe crises in which he finds sanctuary from the pain on the court, doing what he loves. He did not take the charter flight north Friday for the game tonight against the Golden State Warriors, and the guess here is that he and his conference-high 27.5 points a game are going to be lost for weeks rather than days.

On the team where Bryant is the clear No. 1 weapon, Odom is the clear No. 2. He's the only Laker other than Bryant who has led the team in scoring more than once this year. He's the best of the players acquired from the Miami Heat last summer in the trade for O'Neal.

But his first season back in Los Angeles has been a maze of inconsistency, nice performances such as his 24 points against Miami on Christmas Day and his 24 on Thursday mere dots among 11 games where his perimeter presence and left-handed slashes to the basket produced fewer than 10 shots.

The only good news for the Lakers in Bryant's injury is that it might spur the 25-year-old Odom to find the leader inside that 6-foot-10 body.

"He has a lot of great leadership abilities," said Bryant, as he stood on crutches Friday. "Now's the best time to bring that out. I think it's going to make us a better team once I come back and I'm healthy. It's a challenge for him. I have no doubt he can do it." *New York Times News Service*

Lakers give cash for tsunami aid

LOS ANGELES—The Los Angeles Lakers will donate $100,000 to the tsunami victims with $27,000 coming from Kobe Bryant's 27 point night against the Houston Rockets.

The Lakers matched the donation of Bryant who said he was contributing $1,000 for each point he scored in a January 7 National Basketball Association game. Bryant was one of seven NBA players who pledged $1,000 per point.

The rest of the Lakers' contribution comes from an auction organized by the team and money randomly added to boost the figure to $100,000.

The Lakers plan to give the money to UNICEF which will distribute it in the region. *AFP*

PSA annual awards n

FETED by the Philippine Sportswriters Association (PSA) alongside Jennifer Rosales were the year's other top athletes. Amateur basketball star Gabby Espinas is awarded by Manila Times' Jimbo Gulle.

JUNGOLF prodigy
reigning US Kids w
trophy from The S

TODAY'S Jun Lomibao gives wiry cyclist Rhyan Tanguilig, winner of last year's grueling Tour Pilipinas, his trophy.

NELSON Mariano, the country's latest chess Grandmaster, is feted by People's Tonight's Ed Andaya.

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Roger flog rivals, rule rand Slam warm-ups

EY, Australia—Lleyton He- recovered from a first-set that allowed Ivo Minar to ive straight games before g the Czech qualifier, 7-5, 6- the Sydney International fi- turday.

as Hewitt's fourth Sydney ti- e won previously in 2000, and 2004—and his 20th ht match victory here.

e victory installed Hewitt as a te in the season's first Grand the Australian Open.

he all-Australian women's fi- ixth-seeded Alicia Molik beat ntha Stosur, 6-7 (5), 6-4, 7-5.

Melbourne, Roger Federer rmed his No. 1 ranking and tatus also as a hot favorite for Australian Open with a 6-4, win over second-ranked dy Roddick in Saturday's final the Kooyong Classic.

"It's a great preparation, so confidence is high," said Federer. "I felt that my game is ready to go ... and I proved it again."

Federer won 11 titles last season—including three majors—and all without a coach.

The 23-year-old Swiss star is defending an Australian title for the first time, and says it might be easier to retain it than it was to win.

He worked with Tony Roche for two weeks last month and the former Australian Davis Cup coach was courtside to watch Federer in the final.

"Last year I got here with no coach and people were wondering how this will be, (I) put a lot of pressure on myself," said Federer. "So I feel much, much better coming in (to) this year's Open, even though the pressure is there to defend it."

Federer broke Roddick's serve once in each set Saturday, raising his game to another level when he needed it.

After saving a break-point on his own serve in the fourth game, he broke Roddick in the fifth. He then held his next two service games at love to reinforce the advantage.

Walkover

Stosur benefited from walkover wins in her two previous matches. Top-seeded Lindsay Davenport pulled out with bronchitis against Stosur in the quarterfinals and on Friday, third-seeded Elena Dementieva had heat sickness.

In Saturday's match, Stosur had treatment at the start of the third set for a strained stomach muscle. She took a 2-0 lead in the decider, fell behind, 5-3, and broke Molik when her opponent was serving for the match.

But Molik broke Stosur's serve three games later when the set appeared heading for a tiebreaker to earn her fifth career win. Stosur also lost in the Gold Coast final last week to Patty Schnyder of Switzerland.

Hewitt quickly moved out to a 5-0 lead, and when Minar won his first game to make it 5-1—saving a set point in the process—the center-court crowd gave him a loud ovation.

Unforced errors

That seemed to inspire Minar, who broke Hewitt in the next game and held, then did the same again to even the set.

Hewitt, stemming an uncharacteristic string of unforced errors that allowed Minar to get back into the set, held to go up, 6-5, before breaking Minar in the next game, taking the opener on his third set point when a Minar return went long.

"I wasn't doing anything special," Minar said of his comeback. "He (Hewitt) was playing some bad shots."

Hewitt held service to open the second set, then broke Minar in the next game. It was a lead that, unlike the first set, he did not relinquish, winning his 24th career ATP tournament.

Strange match

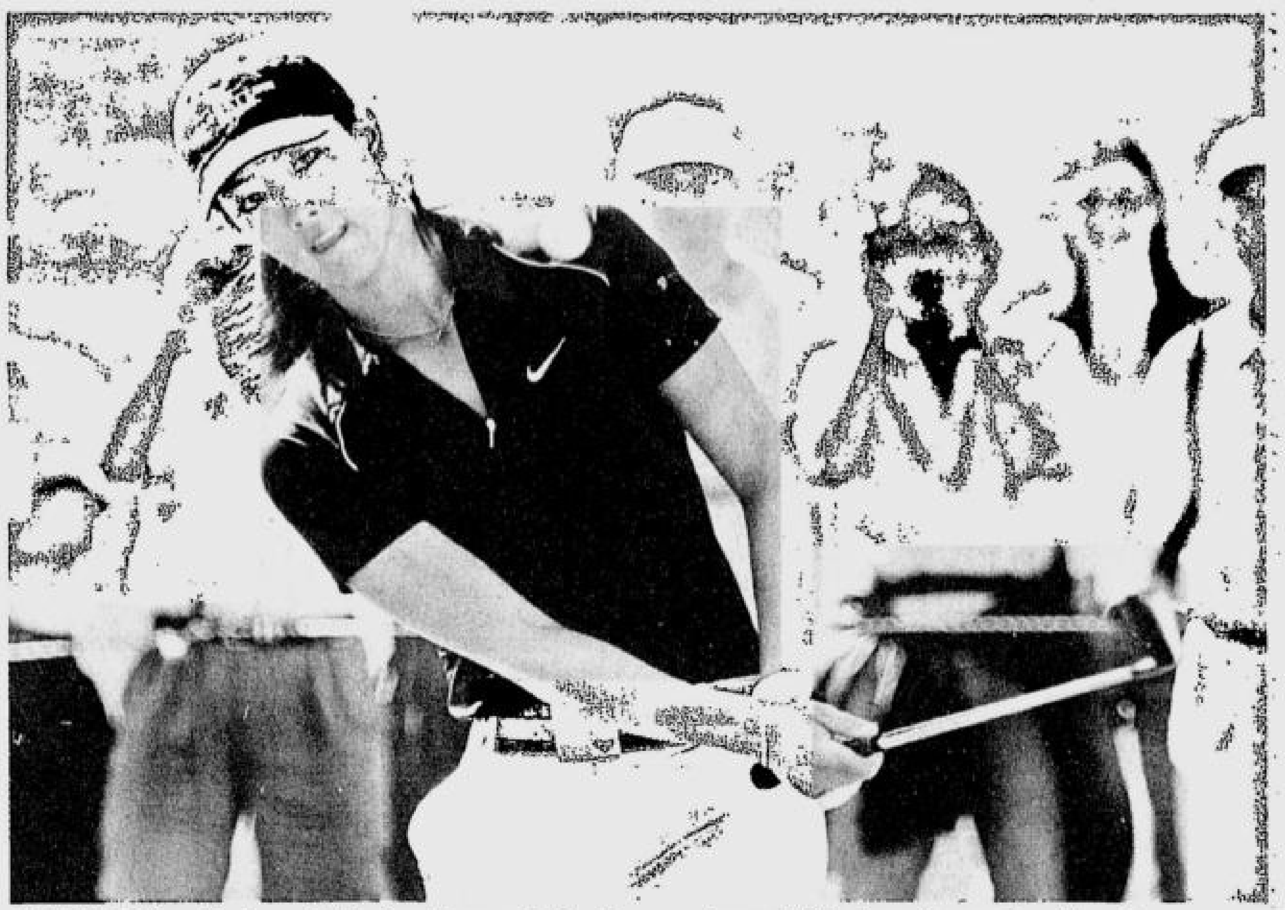
"It was a strange match . . . momentum swings," said Hewitt. "I felt like I came out of the blocks extremely well, but then he loosened up a bit.

"When he got back to 5-5, I had to try to settle down and take it up a notch, and I was able to do that."

Minar said it was the best week of his life.

"It's Saturday and I'm still here," said Minar. "But this is a main draw and I need the points and the money."

His runner-up finish was worth $30,600, about half of his previous career earnings of $61,700. *AP*



MICHELLE Wie, chipping onto the fourth green during the second round of the Sony Open, misses the cut. AP

Wie misses Sony weekend

HONOLULU—It's back to school for Michelle Wie.

The 15-year-old high school student never had a chance to make the cut Friday in the Sony Open, taking three putts from 8 feet for a triple bogey on her sixth hole and losing more ground from there. She shot a 4-over 74 to finish 17 shots behind leader Shigeki Maruyama, and seven shots below the cut line.

"I think I tried too hard," Wie said. "After missing the cut by one last year, I think I took for granted that I was going to play better."

Most girls her age don't mind having a weekend off. Wie had grandiose plans.

She was trying to become the first female in 60 years to make the cut on the PGA Tour, and had high hopes after missing by one shot last year. If everything went perfect, she thought she could finish in the top 20.

Wie had to settle for a tie with European Ryder Cup player Paul Casey at 9-over 149. She wound up tied for 128th place, still better than 14 other men.

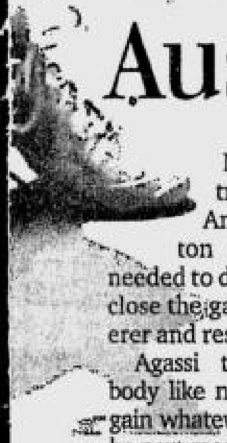
Her mother brushed dried streaks of tears from her cheeks, and a box of tissue was at her feet after two emotionally draining days on the PGA Tour.

"I'm going for some retail therapy," Wie said, a teenager's term for shopping.

Maruyama holed a bunker shot for eagle on the par-5 ninth for a 65, giving him a one-shot lead over Justin Rose and Brett Quigley going into a weekend at Waialae Country Club that will be missing its biggest star.

Another huge gallery had little reason to cheer.

Wie picked up her first birdie with an 8-foot putt on the 10th hole, but by then it was too late. There was no drama like last year, when she birdied two of her last three holes for a 68 to miss the cut by one shot. *AP*



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REUTERS

Aussie Open: Who'll stop Federer?

MELBOURNE, Australia—Andre Agassi, Andy Roddick and Lleyton Hewitt knew they needed to do something drastic to close the gap between Roger Federer and rest of men's tennis.

Agassi tuned his 34-year-old body like never before, looking to gain whatever edge he could when he next meets the top-ranked Swiss player. Agassi, however, hurt his hip during a tuneup match against Roddick and it's unclear if he will play when the Australian Open begins Monday at Melbourne Park.

Roddick, ranked No. 2, switched coaches. He ended an 18-month association with Brad Gilbert that had produced his first major title, joining former US Davis Cup coach Dean Goldfine and overhauling his practice regimen.

Hewitt, ranked No. 3, bulked up his upper body, hoping it might help him end a six-match losing string to Federer that included the finals of the US Open and season-ending Masters Cup.

"Roger has taken the game to a new level," said Hewitt, the former US Open and Wimbledon champion who at one time led Federer, 6-1, in head-to-head meetings.

Federer won the Australian Open, Wimbledon and the US Open among his 11 titles in 2004, becoming the first man since Sweden's Mats Wilander in 1988 to capture three of the four majors in one season.

Adding another title last week at Qatar—his 23rd—he improved his winning streak in tour finals to 14 and stretched his winning run to 21 consecutive matches.

"To finish No. 1 and the way he did it is an incredible effort, but it's also become the standard that everybody is trying to push for," said Agassi, an eight-time major champion.

Federer is flattered by the attention, but he's not letting it distract him from his goal for 2005—start with an Australian Open title and finish with the No. 1 ranking. *AP*

SHARAPOVA AP

Sharapova downplays 'tsarinas' bad blood

MELBOURNE, Australia—Maria Sharapova Saturday played down talk of a rift between her and Russia's other tennis 'tsarinas' ahead of next week's Australian Open.

The 17-year-old starlet stunned the tennis world last year when she won Wimbledon, one of a remarkable three Grand Slam crowns won by Russian players over the course of the season.

But the year finished on a slightly sour note for Sharapova, with French Open champion Anastasia Myskina threatening to pull out of Russia's Fed Cup team if the US-based teenager was drafted into the squad this year.

"I don't want to be on the same team with people who don't show respect to me as a person," said Myskina. "If she joins our team next season, you won't see me there." US Open champion Svetlana Kuznetsova also had a dig, drawing attention to the fact that Sharapova has lived half her life in the United States since being whisked away to Florida at the age of seven.

When asked which of the new Russian players was most popular internationally, Kuznetsova replied: "Sharapova of course—but I don't know if you would call her Russian though."

Myskina played down talk of a feud with Sharapova last week, insisting her gripe had been with her young compatriot's father Yuri following his behavior at the WTA Tour Championships in Los Angeles.

And on Saturday Sharapova insisted she got along fine with the other Russian players, while acknowledging though that her tender years meant she didn't have much in common with them.

"I get along with a lot of the players," Sharapova said. *AFP*

ight

Miguel Tabuena, the orld champ gets his ar's Abac Cordero.

TOP karter Matteo Guidicelli is feted by People's Tonight's Aileen Gabutina.

GOLFER Angelo Que, already a Vietnam Open champion, gets a PSA trophy from Pilipino Star's Carmela Ochoa.

MARK Paragua may not have his GM norm, but he has his PSA trophy, handed by Abante's Virgi Romano, to smile about.

SPORTSMAN Putch Puyat, representing pool king Alex Pagulayan, receives a trophy from Today's Christine Moncada.

Determined Venus eyes drought's end

MELBOURNE, Australia—Venus Williams is determined to end a four-year grand slam drought at the Australian Open.

The 24-year-old eighth seed from the United States has not won a major since lifting the last of her two US Open crowns in 2001.

Her oft-stated willingness to pursue a career outside of tennis has left many wondering whether she has the hunger to claw her way back to the top.

But Williams brushed off the doubts Saturday, saying she was itching to get the winning feeling again after so long without a grand slam.

"Absolutely," she replied when asked if the long run without a major crown had made her hungrier for success. "I definitely have had some great performances in my career, definitely a ton of grand slam finals.

"But this is the beginning of a new year. I'd like to take some home. Why not start here?" she said, adding that her hunger for a title was mirrored by sister Serena.

"Serena and I are very good players. There's no doubt," she said. "We definitely have the ability and we definitely have the drive. So we just have to get out there and make it happen."

Williams is placed in a tricky part of Monday's draw, which could see her meet Australia's Alicia Molik in the round of 16 before a possible meeting with top-seed and world No. 1 Lindsay Davenport in the quarters.

But neither player holds much fear for Williams.

"I've played both of them before. I feel like I have a little experience on my side, a couple of good shots," she said.

"I'm not too worried because in the end I need to get there first and then I'll think about it." *AFP*

Streaking Steelers favored over Jets

ATLANTA—The last time the Pittsburgh Steelers lost, John Kerry still had a chance, Ben Roethlisberger still had a rookie's trance and Jerome Bettis still had clean pants.

All that has changed, even while the net result has not. The 15-1 Steelers open the second round of the NFL playoffs today taking an unanticipated 13-game win streak against the visiting New York Jets.

It has been 117 days since the Steelers fell in Baltimore Sept. 19 and while those 17 weeks have taken the usual physical toll on their roster, the league's winningest team nevertheless hits the postseason in its best shape all year.

On Tuesday, the Steelers sent all 53 players out to practice, which had not happened all season.

"My body feels better right now than it has in a long time," Roethlisberger said. "I think the time off has helped a lot."

The oddsmakers are hedging, establishing Pittsburgh as a 9-point favorite against the same Jets that lost 17-6 at Heinz Field in December. New York, an implausible winner in last week's first-round overtime victory over San Diego, not only seems ready for this game. The Jets have been anticipating it since their last visit.

"We said when we left that locker room that we'd have to come back here and play them in the playoffs," Jets center Kevin Mawae said. "Now that we find ourselves in that situation, I think we're confident in knowing we can go out there and, if we play like we're capable of playing, then the outcome that we seek can happen."

NFL on ESPN

Cable giant ESPN will beam the Steelers-Jets game today at 5:30 a.m. while the Indianapolis Colts take on the defending Super Bowl champion New England Patriots tomorrow at 5:30 a.m.

New York (10-6) defeated the San Diego Chargers, 20 -17, in overtime during last week's AFC Wild Card game to set up the meeting with Pittsburgh.

Indianapolis (12-4) routed the Denver Broncos, 49 – 24, last week to advance to the divisional playoffs. The Colts are led by NFL MVP Peyton Manning. Manning established an NFL touchdown record with this season with 49. New England (14-2), which has won two of the last three Super Bowl crowns, had the best record in the AFC East and are unbeaten in their home turf with an 8-0 card.

ESPN will also air the AFC championship live next week on ESPN. *New York Times News Service*

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

1st Carl Ching Men Ky caging slated in Manila

By Al S. Mendoza

GO

CHING

HONG KONG—The inaugural tournament of the Dr. Carl Men Ky Ching Cup has been approved for staging in Manila in September.

This was mutually agreed upon over the weekend between key officials of the Basketball Association of the Philippines (BAP) and Dr. Carl Ching Men Ky, the president of Fiba (World Basketball Federation).

Several prominent sports journalists here and TV reporters were present at the press conference announcing the historic event.

"I am flattered by your gesture," said Dr. Ching to Go Teng Kok, the recently appointed project director of amateur basketball. "Words are not enough to express my joy as it is only now that my lifetime devotion to the game is being finally being given flesh."

With Go in the BAP delegation were Graham Lim and Bonnie Alentajan, the BAP secretary general and legal counsel, respectively.

"I can stage as many tournaments as I can but, unfortunately, I can not put up a tournament under my own name," said Dr. Ching, earning an applause from the audience.

Dr. Ching has been into basketball since he was seven years old, becoming sort of a basketball legend in Hong Kong when he averaged 44 points a game playing as superstar of the high school team that he powered to four varsity championships in their own version of the UAAP.

"I quit the game to pursue my college education," said Dr. Ching, who went on to earn a Ph.D in economics, working five jobs simultaneously at one stage to help his family maintain a decent living. "I couldn't find the time to play anymore as I was studying and working at the same time. Every day in my college life, I only had three hours of sleep."

After college, Dr. Ching went back to basketball and rose quickly from the ranks. In 1974, he even became the coach-manager of the Asian All-Star basketball team. "I got into my team such great Filipino players like Atoy Co, Rudy Soriano, Larry Mumar and Bogs Adornado," said Dr. Ching. "Oh, that 1974 squad was the best ever from Asia as it also included the legendary Shin Dong Pa."

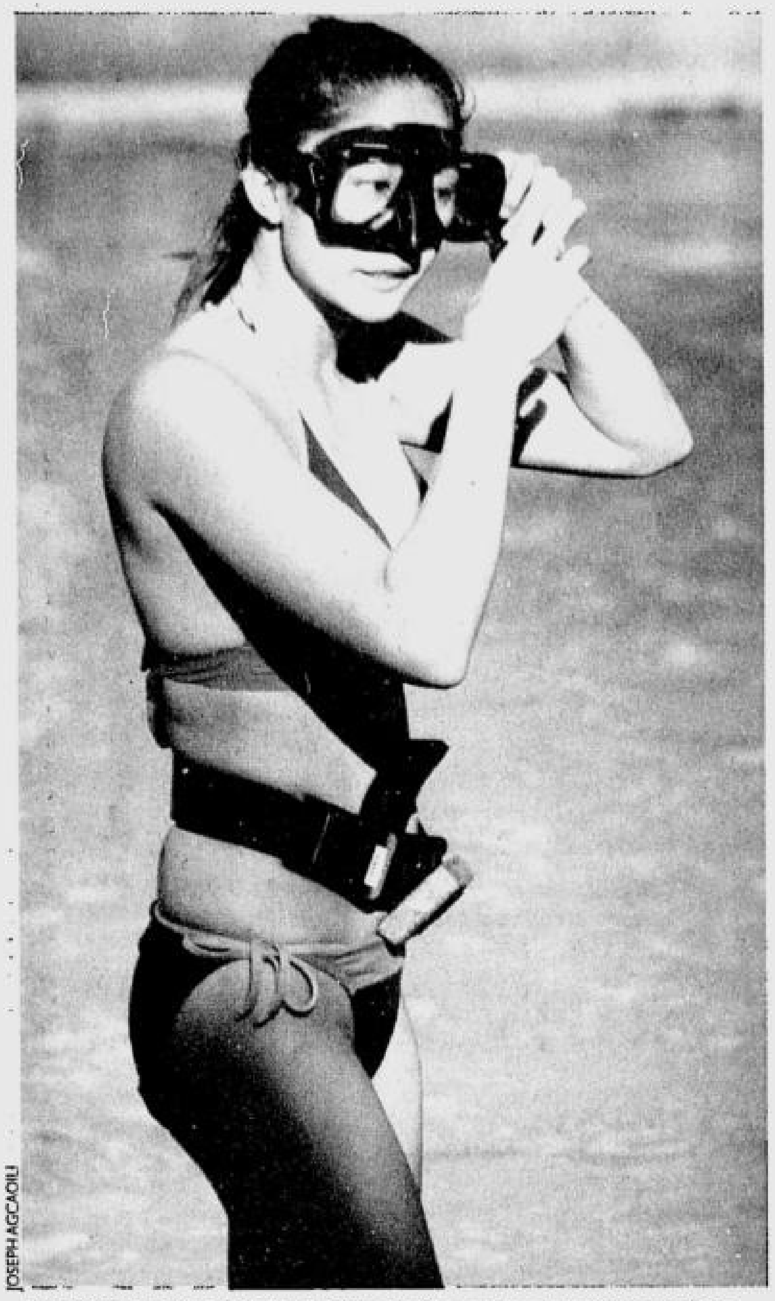
In 1976, Dr. Ching became a top cog of the Asian Basketball Confederation and would become ABC president in no time. In 2002, at age 65, Dr. Ching was elected Fiba president.

"I am just a speck in Hong Kong but, modesty aside, I am the first Chinese to head a world sports federation (Fiba)," he said.

In the envisioned 1st Dr. Carl Men Ky Ching Cup, Go hopes to invite teams from China, Japan, South Korea and a powerhouse squad from the Middle East, possibly Lebanon.

"We will make this tournament one of the toughest in Asia," said Go, also the president of track and field and chess associations in the country. "I am glad that PBA Commissioner Noli Eala has started strong moves for basketball unity in our country. I plan to request him to include PBA teams, if not a PBA selection, to the first Dr. Carl Men Ky Ching Cup."

In the trip to Hong Kong, Go, Lim and Alentajan also formally made a bid for the hosting in Manila of the ABC Championship in 2007, which Dr. Ching called "a welcome development as it finally revived the Philippines' standing as a basketball power in Asia.



JOSEPH AGCAOILI

ENERVON AXN EXTREME: Michelle Nocon fixes her diving mask as she is about to dive for the underwater pool puzzle. The Enervon AXN Extreme will be telecast over AXN Channel in February and March.

FVR heads 21st Mango Tee bets

FORMER president Fidel V. Ramos will lead a horde of VIPs, including Alabang Country Club, Inc. president Fernando Balatbat and chairman Gil Yuzon, seeing action in the 21st edition of Alabang's Mango Tee member-guest invitational slated on Feb. 2-6.

FVR, a long-time member of the club who was recently named patron of the Asian Golf Tour, Balatbat and Yuzon will be joined by their invited partners in the five-day event co-presented by Smart Communications and Pilipinas Shell. It will feature one of its biggest ever fields of 320 teams.

The record roster will be gunning for a multi-million prize package topped by four Mitsubishi cars provided by Mitsubishi Motors Philippines, Inc. and Citimotors which will be at stake on all the four par-3 holes every day. Turf Co. (Club Car) and Kart Plaza Manufacturing (Yamaha) is upping the ante by also giving away new models of their golf carts as prizes for aces on designated holes.

Flightmates of a player who strikes the jackpot by shooting an ace would also be going home with something in a new concept to be introduced this year by the Mango Tee committee headed by Jun Galindez. The other players will each win a Sharp television set while caddies will receive their share in the form of cash.

Taylor Made adidas/Golf Depot and Sharp Philippines are also coming in as major sponsors, Ayala Greenfield Estate, Chinatrust, Foodlink and Standard Chartered as area sponsors and Nescafe, Nestea, Pepsi Cola and Security Bank/Diners Club as premium sponsors.

Hole sponsors are ACRO Industrial, Andi Tabusalla, Ayala Greenfield Estate, Beacon Environmental Management C-Lium Fibre of Garsworth Marketing, City Service, GG&A Clubshares, Golfers Clubshares,Inc., Green Cross, Hewlett Packard Phils., Joseph Rice Center/Jan Barandiaran, MIS Maritime, Corp., Prudential Life Group, Tanduay Distillers, Safe Seas Shipping, San Miguel Corp., Teddy Tiqui, True Value and YKK.

Balatbat, meanwhile, said that the club will use the occasion to showcase recent improvements in the main bar and dining room which is part of the Rennaisance Project intended to modernize the existing facilities of the club initiated by his predecessor Boy de Borja.

"For the Mango Tee, we are laying out a special garden setting near the teeing grounds where meals and refreshments will be served to all the players. We're going to make sure that everyone gets the pampering of players the Mango Tee is known for," said Balatbat.

The other members of the Alabang board are also entered. They are Jake Pena (vice president), Johnny Castillo (treasurer) and corporate secretary Joel Bodegon as well as committee directors Paul Cortez (golf), Edwin Arcilla (sports and recreation), Pete Cervantes (socials) and Ed Manese (labor).

Players can choose from the following playing schedules: Wednesday morning-Friday afternoon, Wednesday p.m.-Saturday a.m., Thursday a.m., Saturday p.m., Thursday p.m.-Sunday a.m., Friday a.m.-Sunday p.m. But despite the added playing day, there are still 60 teams in the waiting list.

There will also be nightly cocktails and entertainment every night and the awarding ceremonies on Feb. 6 promises to be a fun-filled evening with the usual performers and raffle prizes.

Konica Minolta National Pro-Am dangles ₱1.5M

THE KONICA Minolta National Pro-Am, featuring the country's top pros and amateurs, will be played on Feb. 8-12 at the Riviera Golf Club in Silang, Cavite.

Bert Bravo, chairman and CEO of U-BIX Corporation, said prizes this year total a whopping P1.5 million.

"The increase in prizes is our way of welcoming our alliance with Konica Minolta even as we recognize the robust growth of the Pro-Am through the years," said Bravo, who re-launched the event in 2001 as the U-BIX National Pro-Am after an absence of nearly 20 years.

He said the merger with U-BIX, the country's leading office equipment distributor for the last 31 years, has made Konica and Minolta as the exclusive brand copiers to sponsor the only Pro-Am event in the country since the tournament's inception in the Fifties.

Expected to grace the Celebrity Pro-Am on Feb. 8 are Shoei Yamana, Ko Hasegawa, Kahori Hisano and Tadayoshi Yamada, all Japanese executives from Konica Minolta of Japan, who will be hosted by Riviera Golf Club president, Comm. Danny Pizarro.

They will be joined in the Celebrity podium by Bravo and U-BIX president and COO Vida C. Ty in the NGAP-sanctioned tournament supported by Riso, Epson, Brother Office, Casio, Okamura, Planex Network, ServiceMaster, Terminix, Merry Maids, Grappa's Ristorante, Caffe Appassionato, Pivo Praha, WineMaster and Bravo Golf.

Gerard Cantada and amateur partner JR Tanpinco are expected to defend their title at Riviera's Langer, which was also the venue of the 88th Philippine Open last year, on Feb. 9-12.

Participants have until Jan. 31 to register, either at the NGAP offices (tels. 525-6987, 524-5160) or Riviera (888-9127, 046-2868, 046-414-2837).

Only 110 teams will be accepted, with the Top 30 teams eligible to receive prizes.

The Top 30 pros based on the Organizing Committee's ranking are restricted from teaming up with amateurs with handicap indices of 5 and below as of January 2005.

As usual, the Bravo Cup will go to the champions.

Esguerra puts up seed fund for Caddies Open

CHAMPION race horse-owner and breeder Hermie Esguerra believes that those who produce champions form a large part in history as the champions themselves.

"In horse-racing, the trophy is more important than the prize money," Esguerra said. "It symbolizes your dominance, your mastery of the field. And you can't spend that."

The 50-year-old philanthropist and National Caddies' Open co-chairman Ben Abalos, executive director Tony Arevalo and tournament director Tommy Manotoc have decided to put a perpetual trophy at stake to honor the mother club of the winner of the one-of-a-kind event slated Feb. 1-4.

"We must not forget that these caddies will be coming to the tournament with the full backing of their (mother) courses,"

explained Esguerra, who has pledged 10 percent of all of his horses' winnings for the month of January as the NCO's seed fund.

The seed fund will be used for allowance and expenses of the top three placers of the event that will be held under the auspices of the Philippine Amateur Golf Development Foundation.

The top three will train for the next two years under the NCO program and will play in every major amateur tournament here and abroad.

Deadline for submission of nomination forms is at the end of office hours on Tuesday.

Invitations and nomination forms have been sent out to all the golf clubs in the country and the NCO will take care of everything, from transport to board and lodging of the nominees who will make the grade.

Golf clubs which failed to receive their invites and nomination forms can coordinate with the Calatagan office of the tournament through Dave Hernandez at telephone numbers (0917) 8425275, (0917) 8425257 or fax number (0919) 5470619.

Questions can also be e-mailed to the nationalcaddiesopen@yahoo.com.

Accomplished nomination forms can be faxed at 7238556 or (0919) 5470619 or sent by courier to the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club, c/o the office of the club president and to the Calatagan Golf Club in Batangas.

CASSIUS Casas gets new crack at the top.

PDI PHOTO

Casas regains playing card in Asian Tour

By Jong Arcano

CASSIUS Casas can now look forward to a new beginning and revive an international career disrupted by his happy-go-lucky ways.

Casas regained his playing card in the Asian Tour after tying for 15th in the grueling Qualifying School that ended yesterday at the Palm Resort Golf and Country Club in Johor Bahru, Malaysia

Of the seven Filipinos in the field of more than 500, it was only Casas who made it.

He joins Angelo Que, winner of the Vietnam Open last year, as the only other regular campaigner from the Philippines in the coming Asian Tour season that will have several million-dollar events co-sanctioned by the European Tour as well as tri-sanctions with the Japanese and Australian tours.

The season starts with the $1 million Caltex Masters presented by Carlsberg in Singapore on Jan. 27-30.

Casas shot rounds of 71, 68, 72, 71 for a six-under-par 282 aggregate, to get into the cut line of 285 but far off the winning 273 total posted by Corey Harris of the US.

There were 50 players who secured their cards, but Filipinos Danny Zarate, Gerald Rosales, Cookie LaO, Carito Villaroman, Mars Pucay, Jerome Delariarte and Antonio Lascuna failed to make the grade.

Betting on betang

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

WHY WAS betang, a sport we don't play, included in this year's SEA Games?

I was told betang is played primarily in Cambodia.

No Filipino, not even our ambassador to Cambodia, knows how betang is played.

Does Bong Barrameda, the Philippines' answer to Alex Trebeck of Jeopardy, know anything about betang?

We need an Aeschylus, if not an Einstein, to even unearth the origins of the game.

Betang's inclusion is obvious: A concession for Cambodia, a perennial SEA Games cellar-hugger in the company of Laos and, at times, Brunei.

Concededly, the five gold medals reportedly at stake in betang are sure to go to Cambodia.

What is this, a political contest, where dirty horse trading is commonplace?

Or are we in a stock exchange, where fortunes change faster than the fashion trends in Paris?

If betang can be so easily inserted into the calendar by an outsider, what more with games inherently Filipino?

So, c'mon, fellas, let's have fun. Let's include patintero, balubalan, tumbang preso and pitik bulag.

Isn't the host country of every SEA Games event supposed to get juicier concessions than invading countries?

What has become of the SEA Games, the Divisoria of Asian sports, where medals are no longer contested on the playgrounds but instead inside the board room?

I know that Cito Dayrit knew of betang's inclusion, being then the top banana in the SEA Games Federation when games to be played in the biennial meet were being deliberated upon. Had he objected to it-he should have done that to begin with-the game would not have been in the calendar.

Why did Cito allow it?

Either that he must have played it in his before-life, or he must be a long-lost cousin of Norodom Sihanouk?

Anyways, as I gathered it, the SEA Games event in Manila in November is initially staking 389 gold medals, including the five gold medals in betang.

In the 41 sports so far approved for competition, the Philippines-listen closely to this-is supposed to go zero in nine of them, including betang. Meaning, we are not also expected to win gold medals in football, weightlifting, bodybuilding, lawn tennis, table tennis, squash, volleyball and badminton.

Question: If we cannot win in any of the said 9 events, why the need still to stage them?

Well, as we love to say, it is not in the winning but in the playing.

True winners don't need metals minted in gold. True winners know if they won.

There is a move to appeal the final composition of the sports to be played. Definitely, betang's inclusion will be up for review.

It will not be until July 15 when the final list of disciplines to be contested is approved. But this early, I am betting on betang to be retained. That's why to the oppositionists of betang, my advice is, to make it even steven with Cambodia, ram more Filipino games into the SEA Games calendar.

Shatung would be a good choice.

Spider wars, too.

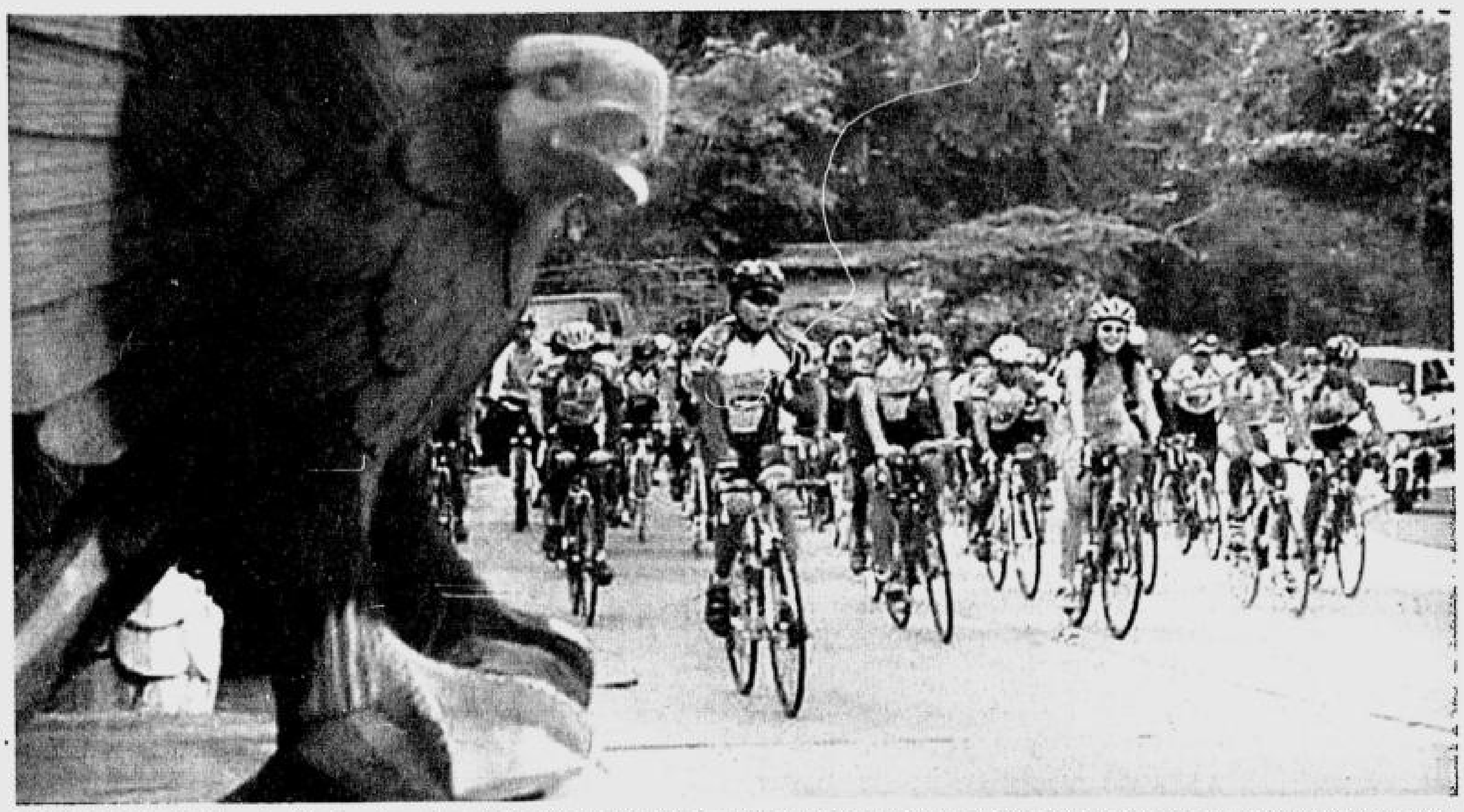
Oops, don't forget jack 'n poy.

And, yes, how about taguan-pung?

Not in the counting of gold medals won, fellas. It's in the counting of applause earned.

***

FASTBREAK. My cousin, Mayor "Insan" Alfonso Soriano of Malasiqui, Pangasinan, will sponsor the Soriano Cup Chess Championship on Feb. 5-10 at the Agno Valley College. The tournament, sanctioned by the National Chess Federation of the Philippines headed by Go Teng Kok, will stake cash prizes and trophies to the winners. Eugene Torre, Asia's first grandmaster, will be the guest of honor. My salute to the mayor, whose first name and family name are my first name and middle name-thus our being cousins. Pssst! Eugene, can you keep a secret? Please don't tell the lawyer-mayor, a very jolly fellow, I intend to gatecrash into the chess tournament? All the best, Insan.



BIKE FOR HOPE : Senator Pia Cayetano leads bikers through a 42-km. bike ride for a cause to Baguio City. TOOTS SOBERANO, PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

1st int'l marathon for Pasig River set

CLEAN and Green Foundation, chaired by former First Lady Amelita Ming Ramos, launched the First International Philippine Marathon for the Pasig River, recently.

Originally called the Pasig River Heritage Marathon, the First International Philippine Marathon for the Pasig River is held every last Sunday of February and for this year, it will be staged on Feb. 27.

The Philippine Marathon for the Pasig River will run its course from Fort Santiago to Fort Bonifacio's Global City.

The 4-year-old Pasig River Heritage Marathon has been accredited by the US-based Association of International Marathons and Road Races and the International Association of Athletic Foundations, thus making it an official international marathon event. It is included in the official list and schedule of marathons in the world.

As a result of its accreditation, the Pasig River marathon is now called the Philippine Marathon for the Pasig River.

The Philippine Marathon for the Pasig River seeks to refocus attention to and awaken more concern for the Pasig River's future. It will pass 11 of the 13 bridges that cross the Pasig River.

Since its inception, The Philippine Marathon for the Pasig River has always been a hybrid of physical prowess, environmental advocacy, and historical and cultural awareness. The race is not only a tour of endurance, but a tour with historical purpose as runners will pass through the country's historical sites and districts. One of the immediate aims is to bring back life to Pasig River. For inquiries, call 527-6376.

La Salle nips Welcoat, completes q'final cast

GAMES TUESDAY. (*Pasig Sports Center*)
2 p.m.—AMP-Ateneo vs Granny Goose
4 p.m.—ICTSI-La Salle vs Welcoat

By Jasmine W. Payo

IT took quite some time before the Archers got what they wanted. But they had Mac Cardona and Joseph Yeo to turn it up in overtime.

ICTSI-La Salle completed the quarterfinal cast in the PBL Open Championship after outlasting the seasoned Welcoat Paints, 95-89, yesterday at the Pasig Sports Center.

Cardona delivered another gutsy performance, finishing with a game-high 31 points and 11 rebounds. And this time, he got ample support from Yeo, who scored nine of his 23 points in overtime.

With only 14.8 seconds left in the fourth quarter, the Archers were on the brink of elimination but Yeo sank two pressure-packed freethrows that forced the extra period, 76-76.

"Considering our situation, we really came out aggressive," said coach Franz Pumaren. "We're undersized and just looking at every aspect, Welcoat has the advantage. It was pure heart. We didn't give up."

And the Archers have to continue playing with heart as they need to beat the Paintmasters twice to advance in the semifinals.

Archrival AMP-Ateneo, which also barely made it to the quarterfinals, will face Granny Goose in the other quarterfinal pairing.

Magnolia-FEU also needed an extra period to claim solo leadership at the end of the elimination round after repulsing Montaña Pawnshop, 75-73.

The Wizards, who trailed by as many as 54-39, unloaded a 19-0 bomb to take a 58-54 lead, with 1:30 remaining in the fourth quarter.

Arwind Santos finished with 19 points and five blocks to lead the Wizards to their ninth straight win.

Yeo opened the extra period with a lot of spunk to lift the Archers, 83-79. Cardona kept the Archers ahead and a Yeo triple capped the run for a 90-83 advantage in the final 23 seconds.

The Archers trailed by as much as 12 points, 54-42, early in the third quarter. The Taft-based crew managed to trim the deficit, 62-55, and then went on to score nine of their next 13 points beyond the arc to pull even, 67-67.

The match remained tied, 74-74, in the final two minutes, but a Jay-R Reyes drive put Welcoat ahead, 76-74, with 57 seconds left. Eugene Tan was later slapped a foul that salvaged the Archers as Yeo converted his gift shots.

Magnolia-FEU outscored Montaña 9-3 to gain the lead, 69-63, in overtime. Ariel Capus kept the Jewels within striking distance, but the Wizards' steady freethrow shooting gave them a 75-71 lead in the final 14 seconds.

The scores:

First game

ICTSI-LA SALLE 95—Cardona 31, Yeo 23, Cabatu 12, Araña 11, Casio 11, Tang 5, Gaco 2, Aquino 0, Gavino 0, Villanueva 0.

WELCOAT 89—Ortiguerra 21, Washington 15, Tan 12, Coching 11, Reyes 9, Tolomia 8, Mamaclay 5, Gamboa 5, Dulay 3, Dy 0, Sta. Maria 0, Estrada 0.

Quarters: 26-22, 42-47, 55-62, 76-76 (reg), 95-89 (OT).

Second game

MAGNOLIA-FEU 75—Santos 19, Ybañez 11, Miranda 9, Misolas 7, Isip 7, Rizada 7, Jones 4, Raneses 4, Chan 3, Razon 2, Catli 2, Co 0, Yabut 0.

MONTAÑA 73—Capus 25, Salvador 12, Dela Cuesta 11, Baguion 7, Juntilla 7, Vergara 5, Junio 2, Espiritu 2, Guerrero 2, Magpayo 0, Mercado 0.

Quarters: 15-19, 24-30, 35-44, 60-60 (reg) 75-73 (OT).

AUGUST DELA CRUZ

A FALLEN Chester Tolomia of Welcoat looks for someone to pass to after winning a loose ball scramble against ICTSI's Junjun Cabatu.

SPORTSWATCH

Ka Blas Ople memorial golf

FRIENDS and admirers of the late Blas F. Ople—former senator and Cabinet member under different administrations—will commemorate his 77th birthday on Feb. 3 by holding the first Ka Blas F. Ople Invitational Memorial Golf Cup, an 18-hole golf tournament, at Wack Wack Golf and Country Club. Proceeds of the fund-raising affair will go to a scholarship fund for children of journalists under the sponsorship of Samahang Plaridel, an organization of respected journalists, editors and lifetime members of the National Press Club. Ka Blas was one of its organizers. Ambassador Antonio L. Cabangon Chua, chair of the organizing committe, has invited First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo to hit the ceremonial drive. For inquiries, call Fort Jose at 0917-8265687 or 339-1768, Peter Sing at 0917-842-4647 or Bryan Yamsuan at 0917-8464630.

Junior tourney in Golf Power

TODAY'S Golf Power goes back to its original golf format with a special feature on the eighth Samsung Philippine International Junior Golf Championships held last week at Wack Wack's East course. One hundred players from eight countries participated in the three-day competition organized by the Philippine Junior Golf Federation headed by Edgardo "Tito Boy" Cantada. Golf Power is aired every Sunday at 3 p.m. on RPN-9 and is followed by the popular boxing show "Samsung's Fistorama" at 4 p.m. Fistorama is being supported by Samsung, Tanduay Rhum, Mapecon and PCSO.

NFGBI officers inducted tomorrow

THE NATIONAL Federation of Gamefowl Breeders Inc. (NFGBI) inducts it's new set of officers tomorrow at the Sulo Hotel. Ricoy Palmares Jr. will be sworn in as president. The other officers are Rene Diaz, VP for Luzon; Juancho Aguirre, VP for Visayas; Nitoy Nasser, VP for Mindanao; Al Garcia, treasurer; Freddie Katigbak, secretary; Bobby Fernandez , auditor; Emoy Gorgonia, business manager and Gerry Alivia, public information officer. American breeder Bobby Fairchild, director of the Oklahoma Gamefowl Breeders Association (OGBA) will deliver a short message.

One-cock ulutan starts today

GIVEAWAY prizes are at stake in another edition of Pasay City Cockpit's "One-Cock Ulutan Fastest Kill Challenge" which will start at 8 a.m. today featuring more than 150 entries. Sponsors are Sagupaan Complexor 3000, Sagupaan B-50 Forten and Sagupaan Mite Free. For an affordable entry fee of only P500, the guaranteed prize at stake is P100,000. The fastest kill champions will receive P40,000; secons, P20,000; third, P10,000; fourth, P5,000; fifth, P4,000; 6th to 11th, P2,000; 12th to 15th, P1,000 and slowest kill, P5,000. According to pit managers Oscar Gonzales, Eric dela Rosa and Butchoy Olano, the Fastest Kill Challenge will be adopted by Pasay COckpit as it's regular four-day format.

Arroyo rules Pasay charity 4-cocker

REPRESENTATIVE Ignacio Arroyo of the 5th District of Negros Occidental won the 4-cock charity event hosted by Reps. Cora Maglayon of Davao and Connie Dy of Pasay last Friday at the Pasay cockpit. Fielding roosters from Sonny Lagon's Blue Blade Farm, Arroyo went undefeated in the event that drew a total of 32 entries, majority of them members of Congress. Lagon fielded bullstags of Sweater-Gilmore crosses trained and conditioned by Milo Timbas and gaffed by Gildo Marino.

Schumacher hits race track

FERRARI'S seven-time world champion Michael Schumacher will return to the track next Tuesday for his first Formula One test since the end of last season. Champions Ferrari said the 36-year-old, now the oldest driver in Formula One, would report for work at Barcelona's Circuit de Catalunya after an extended winter break following the October 24 season-ender in Brazil. "Every winter I notice how much I love racing and how much I miss it," the German said this week. "It's time to finally start again." The season starts in Australia on March 6. Schumacher made news in the offseason of racing when he announced that his group was pledging a whopping $10 million as aid to those struck by the Asian tsunami late last December. *AFP*

Armstrong withdraws from Qatar race

DOHA, Qatar—Six-time Tour de France champion Lance Armstrong has pulled out of the Tour of Qatar, citing family reasons. The Qatar race is scheduled for Jan. 31-Feb. 4. "This is quite unfortunate since we were looking forward to seeing him race here for the first time," the president of the Qatar Cycling Federation, Sheik Khaled bin Ali Al Thani, said Friday. "But these things happen. Maybe in the future he might race in Doha." Other members of Armstrong's Discovery Channel team will compete in the fourth edition of the Qatar race along with 15 European teams, Sheik Khaled said. Veteran Italian cyclist Mario Cipollini said Friday he would make his season debut in the race. He'll race with Liquigas-Bianchi. *AP*

Mayor Soriano Cup set in Malasique

THE 1ST Mayor Alfonso Soriano Cup chess tournament will be held at the Agno Valley College Gym in Malasiqui, Pangasinan on Feb. 5 – 10.

The event, to be hosted and sponsored by Mayor Alfonso Soriano and sanctioned by the National Chess Federation of the Philippines (NCFP), is open to all chess players from the town of Malasiqui The Swiss system competition aims to support the sports development program of Mayor Soriano.

Cash prizes, trophies and medals will be awarded to the winners, with the top prize of P5,000 going to the champion. The first and second runners-up will receive P3,000 and P2,000, respectively.

Special prizes will also be given to the top kiddie (13 years old and below) and top lady performers.

Grandmaster Eugene Torre has been invited to grace the opening ceremonies and will play simultaneous exhibition matches against the town's young players.

Interested parties may contact Percival Paredes, c/o Municipal Government of Malasiqui, Pangasinan. *NM Marlon Bernardino*

Bata leads seeded players for Philippine 9-ball open

P500,000 purse at stake

LEGENDARY Efren "Bata" Reyes leads an elite list of seeded players in the 2005 Philippine 9-Ball Open championships to be held Feb. 21-27 at the Metropolis Mall in Alabang.

Francisco "Django" Bustamante and Alex "The Lion" Pagulayan, along with five others, have also been seeded into the Final 16 of the event also known as "Best of the Best All-Pinoy 9-Ball Tour."

Joining Reyes, Bustamante and Pagulayan are 2003 Vietnam SEA Games doublegold winner Lee Vann Corteza, former snooker artist Marlon Manalo, Warren Kiamco, Rodolfo Luat and Leonardo Andam.

The other eight entries will have to go through a double-round elimination on Feb. 4.

Jose "Amang" Parica won this event the last time it was held here in 1992. He nipped Eduardo Villanueva, 15-14, for the P200,000 champion's purse.

This year's champion receives P500,000 in prize money, with P200,000 going to the second placer.

Ninth to 16th place will be worth P12,500 each.

Expected to participate in the elimination are 11-year-old Johan Chua, Antonio Gabica, Dennis Orcullo and Antonio Lining, among others. *Marlon Bernardino*

BUSTAMANTE

REYES

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Fil-Am netters join nat'l team to SEAG

ANDRADA

By Marc Anthony Reyes

PHILIPPINE tennis will be banking on a couple of Fil-American netters in its bid to regain overall supremacy in the 2005 Southeast Asian Games.

This was revealed by Philippine Tennis Association president Buddy Andrada yesterday even as he batted for the inclusion of the team events in the Nov. 27 to Dec. 5 SEAG.

Andrada refused to discuss the details and would not release the names of the two male players, who according to him, have already agreed in principle to carry the Philippine colors in the SEA Games without any financial remuneration.

Giving a clue, Andrada said world-ranked Cecil Mamiit is definitely not among the players.

This development bolstered the country's chances of ruling tennis in the SEAG, which it last dominated in 1991 when the country, powered by legend Felix Barrientos, won three gold medals.

Andrada said if plans push through, the country could win two to three golds, including those in the women's events. There are four events right now in the SEAG calendar, namely men's and women's singles and doubles events. Andrada is pushing for men's and women's team events to be included.

Andrada said he already talked to the players, who are now based in the United States, and they have offered their services to the country without cash equivalent outside of the plane fare and accommodation here.

"This is a good news for us, we could be seeing the rebirth of tennis here," Andrada told the INQUIRER. He added that though we are lagging in the region in as far as men's and women's events are concerned, the country continues to rule Southeast Asia in age-group competitions.

Andrada said the country never lacks talents but nevertheless blamed the bad economy for the sport's stunted growth and popularity.

The Philta boss also revealed that the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center—site of the SEAG tennis event—would need at least P10 million for repairs.

He said he will recommend refurbishing on the surface and enhancing the lighting only because repairing the stands would entail additional cost.

The last time the tennis center underwent repairs was 10 years ago to the tune of P14 million, according to Andrada, which included total overhaul of the eight courts currently in existence.

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3. Enter 1234 when asked for PIN to save the settings.
4. Send an MMS message for only P3.00 to activate the service.

Peping vows one-of-a kind training site for RP bets

NEWLY installed Philippine Olympic Committee (POC) President, Jose "Peping" Cojuangco Jr., is now working on making the country great again through sports development.

COJUANGCO

Speaking before members of the Philippine Sportswriters Association (PSA) during the group's annual awards night Thursday, Cojuangco vowed to bring out the best in Filipino athletes by giving them everything they need to become what they should be—champions.

Discipline, proper training and proper nutrition, he explained, are the keys to bringing Philippine sports to higher grounds.

Cojuangco is banking on the creation of one-of-a-kind training center which will give athletes the chance to go beyond what they already are with the help of latest technical and scientific sports programs.

The idea, he said, is to come up with a nationwide athletic program principally concentrating on the youth.

Local government units, non-government organizations and schools will be utilized to search and discover athletes with potentials to join international competitions.

Sports warriors

These young sports warriors will be given proper training, proper nutrition, and all their needs with the help of sports physicians and psychiatrists.

Cojuangco said Filipino athletes should not only be physically fit but also mentally strong so as to bring out the best in them.

According to Cojuangco, President Arroyo has promised to help the POC in its plans and programs while the Philippine Sports Commission is expected to provide the necessary funds.

"Number one is discipline. I firmly believe that Filipinos are endowed with great potentials to be champions. All we need to do is give it a boost so they will be on equal footing with athletes from other countries," Cojuangco said.

Nutrition, he noted, is just as important which is why Filipino athletes should get the right food at the right time.

The new sports czar noted that the typical Filipino diet is not fit for a sportsperson for Filipino meals are often high in phosphorus and low in calcium.

Basic Filipino food, which includes rice, he added, is high in sodium chloride or salt and lacking in potassium which makes a person feel weak.

Cojuangco vowed to make the country great again through sports achievements which will make history and will put the Philippines on the map.

He wants sports to be an integral part of life and not just an accessory taken for granted and given importance only when one has free time.

The POC, he said, will give due appreciation and valuation to sports and "make the country great again" so everyone can share each other's victory and be proud.

Corteza gains billiards seat

VIETNAM SEA Games two-gold winner Lee Vann Corteza joins Efren "Bata" Reyes and Marlon "Marvellous" Manalo in the seeded players of the Philippine billiards and snooker team to this year's Manila SEAG.

RP head coach Ramon Ancaja of the Billiards and Snooker Congress of the Philippines (BSCP) bared Corteza's inclusion yesterday.

"I will do my best to defend my 8-ball singles and 9-ball doubles title," said Davao City pride Corteza, who is planning to compete in the 2005 Asian 9-Ball Tour that kicks off its first leg in Singapore. He will also enter the Japan Open in March.

Marlon Bernardino, Contributor

ENTERTAINMENT

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Second baby means marriage for Jolo, Grace

By Nini Valera

JOLO Revilla, the 16-year-old son of actor-Sen. Bong Revilla and actress Lani Revilla, would have to marry Grace Adriano, the daughter of actress Rosanna Roces, if they happened to have a second baby.

Grace—who turns 16 today—gave birth to a 7-pound boy by normal delivery at 1:30 p.m. Thursday at the Cardinal Santos Memorial Medical Center in Greenhills, San Juan.

"I told Jolo that the first [baby] might be an accident, but a second would no longer be that," said Lani.

She said she had shown a video of the baby's birth, which she shot, to her younger children and explained to them the situation.

"While watching, they had questions, and I explained to them in a very adult manner what was happening," said Lani. "I told them their brother Jolo was now a father, but explained to them that he is not married to the baby's mother. I wanted them to learn the lesson in this."

Grace and the baby are expected to leave the hospital in a few days, with Grace bringing the baby home to her mother's house in Quezon City. But as soon as the baby is baptized, Lani expects to have her grandson and Grace visit the Revilla house during the weekends.

"*Hihiramin namin* [We'll borrow the baby]," said Lani. "Although we'll see to it that Grace and Jolo will sleep in separate rooms. We don't want the same thing to be happening again."

Jolo the new dad spent the night in the hospital with Grace after the baby's birth.

"That was the only time I allowed him to spend the night with Grace," Lani said. "He came home the following day."

No to sex

Senator Revilla said he also warned Jolo about having premarital sex.

"I asked him to refrain from having sex," said Bong. "He's still too young for that. I didn't blame Jolo for what happened. That's not my style. But I warned him that I'll wring his neck if he has another baby while he's still a minor and not prepared for it."

Jolo, who turns 17 in March, is shouldering all the expenses in the birth of his and Grace's son, according to Lani.

"He has to feel right away the responsibility of being a father," said Lani, the first-time grandmother. "He has his own money, which he invested in an auto detailing shop in Cavite. He also has savings. He should know what it's like to be a father."

The son of Jolo and Grace will be named Jose Gabriel Adriano Bautista, said Lani. But he will be nicknamed Leone, which was chosen by Osang—Rosanna's own nickname—long before the baby was born.

"Our goal for Jolo is to prepare him to be a good father, a good provider and eventually a good husband," Lani explained.

Bad example

But she stressed that Jolo and Grace are not getting married any time soon.

"They're both minors, and we will not give them permission to get married," said Lani.

She said she also would not allow Jolo to live with Grace.

"We have other children, and we do not want them to think that living together without getting married is okay with us," Lani explained. "We do not want to set this example to our other kids."

Bong and Lani have six children: Brian, 18; Jolo, 16; Ina, 15; Gianna, 9; Loudette, 7, and Ram, 6.

Bong described the baby as having Jolo's thick eyebrows, a trademark, he said, of all the senator's children.

Both Grace and the baby were fine after the delivery, according to Lani.

"*Wala namang problema* [There were no problems]," Lani said. "Both are healthy."

Bong confessed that he's happy about being a grandfather.

"The baby is a welcome addition to the Revilla family," the senator said.

Bong's 'brother'

"I have become the youngest grandfather I know," he said. "I have been the youngest in everything I have done so far—the youngest senator [at 38], the youngest governor and the youngest vice governor [both of Cavite province].

"The nice thing about this is the baby would grow up like he was my brother," he joked. "When he turns 18, I would only be in my 50s. I'd still be around to guide him. *Parang barkada* [Like a friend]."

Bong admitted that he harbors fears for Jolo's career.

"Having a baby at his young age might have a negative effect on his career," said Bong, "although it might turn out to be for the better for Jolo. It would make him more mature and more responsible. As much as possible, Jolo would be taking full responsibility for his son's welfare. But Lani and I would be around to help out if he needs it.

"Let this serve as a lesson to other kids, not

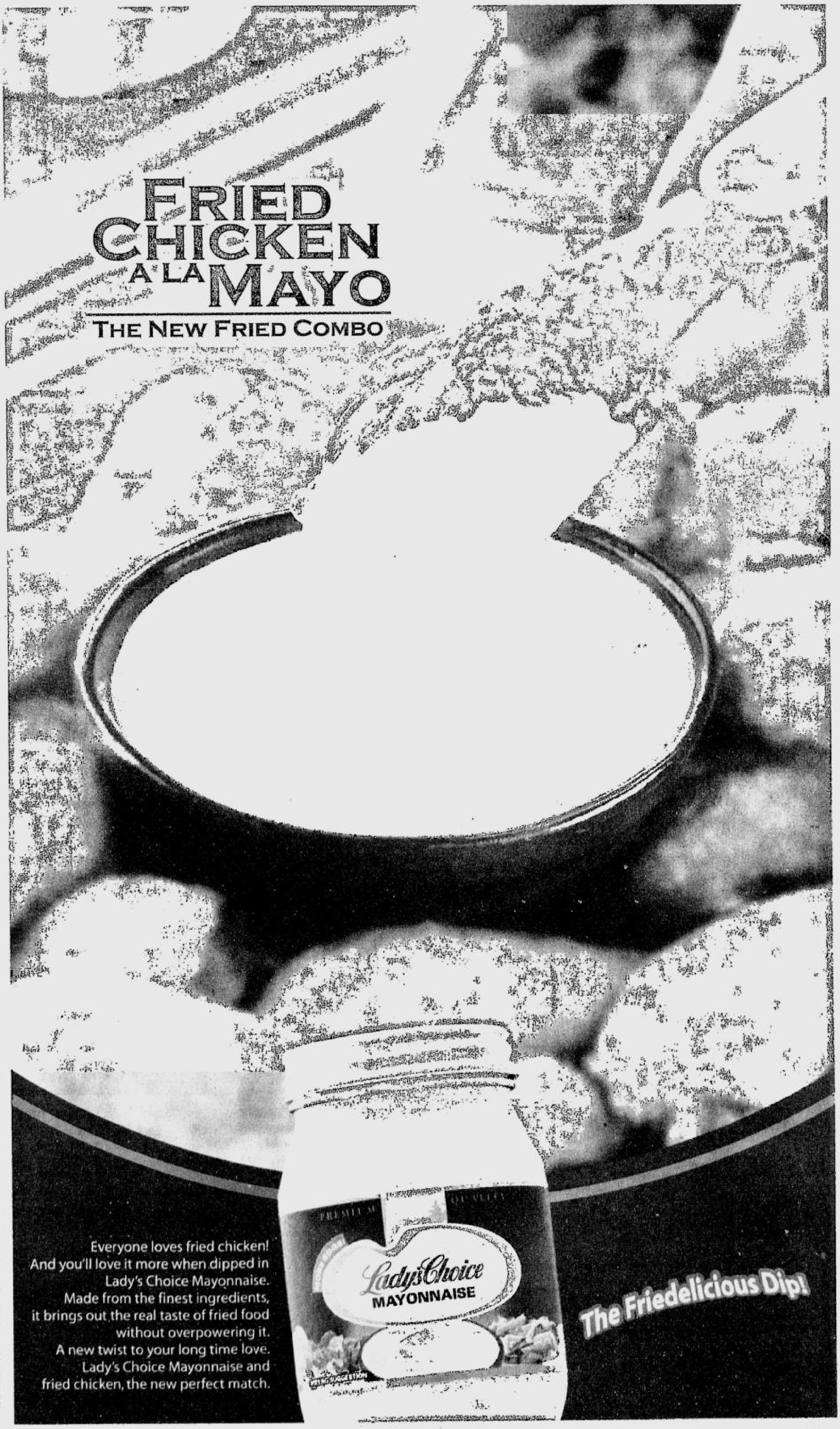
SECOND/ A2-2

JOSE Gabriel Adriano Bautista

REM ZAMORA

LANI Revilla

JOLO Revilla



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1 OCEAN'S 12	1 KUNG FU HUSTLE	1 KUNG FU HUSTLE	GUARANTEED SEATS 1 KUNG FU HUSTLE 12 45, 2 50, 4 55, 7 00, 9 05, 11 10	1 OCEAN'S 12
2 RAISE YOUR VOICE	2 OCEAN'S 12	2 RAISE YOUR VOICE	GUARANTEED SEATS 2 OCEAN'S 12 1 20, 3 50, 6 20, 8 20, 11 20	2 BLADE: TRINITY
3 KUNG FU HUSTLE	3 BLADE: TRINITY	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 OCEAN'S 12 12 30, 3 00, 5 30, 8 00, 10 30	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 IN SEARCH OF AN IMPOTENT MAN 1 05, 3 10, 5 15, 7 20, 9 25, 11 30	3 ONE MISSED CALL
4 IN SEARCH OF AN IMPOTENT MAN	4 RAISE YOUR VOICE	4 IN SEARCH OF AN IMPOTENT MAN	GUARANTEED SEATS 4 RAISE YOUR VOICE 2 00, 4 20, 6 40, 9 00, 11 20	4 2046
5 BLADE: TRINITY		5 ENTENG KABISOTE	GUARANTEED SEATS 5 BLADE: TRINITY 2 50, 5 00, 7 10, 9 20, 11 30	5
		6 BLADE: TRINITY		
		7 HAPPY TOGETHER		

GB1 GREENBELT 1
1 KUNG FU HUSTLE 11:20, 1:25, 3:30, 5:35, 7:40, 9:45
2 OCEAN'S 12 1:50, 4 20, 6 50, 9 20

At the Activity Center

GLORIETTA	ALABANG TOWN CENTER	AYALA CENTER CEBU
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On Jan. 23, Starland Themepark will hold a free candy necklace workshop, starting at 4 p.m., also at the Themepark activity area. Children can learn fun ways of creating useful bits from candy. Call the Starland marketing office, 8504283.

On Jan. 30, kids can watch their favorite animé characters come alive in a special kiddie animé fashion show, featuring selected members of the Starland Fun Kids Kiddie Club. Show starts at 4 p.m. Admission is free.

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Lianas MovieCity
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Second baby . . .

From page A2-1

only my children," Bong added. "The youth should act responsibly and not get themselves into situations like this. While having a baby is a good thing, this should happen at the right time. In Jolo's case, it's too early for him to be having a baby. But we've accepted the situation, and we're happy to be grandparents, Lani and I.

The senator stressed that he was not Jolo's example.

"Jolo followed in the footsteps of his grandfather," Bong joked, referring to his father, former Sen. Ramon Revilla, who fathered more than 80 children by different women.

Charges, counter-charges

Osang had earlier described the yet unborn baby as a gift from God.

"I have always wanted to have another child," she had said. "But it didn't happen. Maybe, this child is the one that I've been longing for."

When rumors of Grace's pregnancy spread, Osang accused her former manager, Lolit Solis, and her former friend, Dr. Vicki Belo, of starting the talk. Their feud resulted in court cases filed by Belo against Osang, who filed counter-charges against the doctor.

The fight among Osang, Lolit and Belo resulted in Osang's resignation from the GMA 7 show biz talk show "Startalk" last June. Aside from guest appearances on rival network ABS-CBN, Osang has not been seen in the public eye.

Last December, she split up with Tito Molina, her longtime live-in partner. She then took over the car detailing business that she owns, which Tito had managed.

"This is the happiest time of my life," Osang had told INQUIRER Entertainment in an earlier interview. "I love staying at home and being with my children."

SEN. BONG Revilla

ROSANNA Roces

Maraming Salamat Po

SA LAHAT NG ATING PINAGSALUHANG TAGUMPAY SA TAONG 2004

TOTAL DAY RATINGS

Mega Manila TV Households (6am-12mn)

JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2004

Nielsen Media Phils.

GMA	**13.6**
ABS-CBN	11.7
DIFF (GMA - ABS)	1.9

AGB Phils.

GMA	**17.0**
ABS-CBN	15.5
DIFF (GMA - ABS)	1.5

4TH QUARTER 2004

Nielsen Media Phils.

GMA	**15.1**
ABS-CBN	10.8
DIFF (GMA - ABS)	4.3

AGB Phils.

GMA	**18.7**
ABS-CBN	13.9
DIFF (GMA - ABS)	4.8

TOP 15 DAYTIME PROGRAMS*

Mega Manila Households (December 2004)

Nielsen Media Phils.

13 OF THE TOP 15 PROGRAMS ARE ON GMA

RANK	PROGRAM	CHANNEL	RATING %
1.	**SLAM DUNK RETURNS**	**GMA**	**22.1**
2.	**IRENE**	**GMA**	**17.9**
3.	**EAT BULAGA (Mon-Fri)**	**GMA**	**17.7**
4.	**EAT BULAGA (Sat)**	**GMA**	**16.7**
5.	**FULL METAL PANIC**	**GMA**	**14.9**
6.	**ONE PIECE**	**GMA**	**14.7**
7.	PILIPINAS GAME KA NA BA?	ABS-CBN	14.1
8.	**DAISY SIETE**	**GMA**	**13.9**
9.	**WITCH HUNTER ROBIN**	**GMA**	**13.8**
10.	**S-FILES**	**GMA**	**13.6**
11.	**WAG KUKURAP**	**GMA**	**13.5**
12.	**STARTALK**	**GMA**	**13.3**
13.	**SNOW ANGEL**	**GMA**	**12.8**
14.	**WISH KO LANG**	**GMA**	**12.4**
15.	GATA SALVAJE	ABS-CBN	12.3

AGB Phils.

12 OF THE TOP 15 PROGRAMS ARE ON GMA

RANK	PROGRAM	CHANNEL	RATING %
1.	**SLAM DUNK RETURNS**	**GMA**	**27.3**
2.	**IRENE**	**GMA**	**23.1**
3.	**EAT BULAGA**	**GMA**	**22.7**
4.	**DAISY SIETE**	**GMA**	**19.4**
5.	PILIPINAS GAME KA NA BA?	ABS-CBN	18.3
6.	**FULL METAL PANIC**	**GMA**	**18.0**
7.	**ONE PIECE**	**GMA**	**17.8**
8.	**S-FILES**	**GMA**	**16.5**
9.	**WAG KUKURAP**	**GMA**	**16.5**
10.	**STARTALK**	**GMA**	**16.5**
11.	**WITCH HUNTER ROBIN**	**GMA**	**16.5**
12.	GATA SALVAJE	ABS-CBN	16.4
13.	**SNOW ANGEL**	**GMA**	**15.9**
14.	**SIS**	**GMA**	**15.6**
15.	KAPAMILYA CINEMA	ABS-CBN	15.4

TOP 15 PRIMETIME PROGRAMS*

Mega Manila Households (December 2004)

Nielsen Media Phils.

10 OF THE TOP 15 PROGRAMS ARE ON GMA

RANK	PROGRAM	CHANNEL	RATING %
1.	**EXTRA CHALLENGE** (MON-FRI)	**GMA**	**25.0**
2.	**24 ORAS**	**GMA**	**24.0**
3.	**MULAWIN**	**GMA**	**23.9**
4.	LOVERS IN PARIS	ABS-CBN	22.1
5.	IT MIGHT BE YOU	ABS-CBN	22.1
6.	**BITOY'S FUNNIEST VIDEOS**	**GMA**	**21.6**
7.	**STARSTRUCK**	**GMA**	**21.0**
8.	**EXTRA CHALLENGE** (SAT)	**GMA**	**20.7**
9.	KRYSTALA	ABS-CBN	19.3
10.	**KAPUSO MO JESSICA SOHO**	**GMA**	**19.3**
11.	**ALL STAR K!**	**GMA**	**18.9**
12.	SPIRITS	ABS-CBN	18.4
13.	**FOREVER IN MY HEART**	**GMA**	**18.4**
14.	HIRAM	ABS-CBN	18.3
15.	**PINOY POP SUPERSTAR**	**GMA**	**18.2**

AGB Phils.

10 OF THE TOP 15 PROGRAMS ARE ON GMA

RANK	PROGRAM	CHANNEL	RATING %
1.	**EXTRA CHALLENGE**	**GMA**	**32.0**
2.	LOVERS IN PARIS	ABS-CBN	32.0
3.	**24 ORAS**	**GMA**	**31.6**
4.	**MULAWIN**	**GMA**	**31.4**
5.	IT MIGHT BE YOU	ABS-CBN	30.3
6.	HIRAM	ABS-CBN	27.9
7.	KRYSTALA	ABS-CBN	27.8
8.	**BITOY'S FUNNIEST VIDEOS**	**GMA**	**27.6**
9.	**IMBESTIGADOR**	**GMA**	**25.4**
10.	**STARSTRUCK**	**GMA**	**25.3**
11.	**ALL STAR K!**	**GMA**	**25.0**
12.	SPIRITS	ABS-CBN	24.6
13.	**KAPUSO MO JESSICA SOHO**	**GMA**	**24.0**
14.	**MEL & JOEY**	**GMA**	**23.9**
15.	**FOREVER IN MY HEART**	**GMA**	**23.0**

TOP 10 LATE NIGHT PROGRAMS*

Mega Manila Households (December 2004)

Nielsen Media Phils.

6 OF THE TOP 10 PROGRAMS ARE ON GMA

RANK	PROGRAM	CHANNEL	RATING %
1.	**SAKSI**	**GMA**	**7.8**
2.	KONTROBERSYAL	ABS-CBN	6.9
3.	INSIDER	ABS-CBN	6.1
4.	PRIVATE I	ABS-CBN	5.8
5.	**EMERGENCY**	**GMA**	**5.2**
6.	**JESSICA SOHO REPORTS**	**GMA**	**5.2**
7.	**I-WITNESS**	**GMA**	**5.1**
8.	**REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK**	**GMA**	**5.0**
9.	SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT	ABS-CBN	4.1
10.	**DEBATE WITH MARE AT PARE**	**GMA**	**4.0**

AGB Phils.

6 OF THE TOP 10 PROGRAMS ARE ON GMA

RANK	PROGRAM	CHANNEL	RATING %
1.	**SAKSI**	**GMA**	**12.3**
2.	**EMERGENCY**	**GMA**	**10.0**
3.	KONTROBERSYAL	ABS-CBN	9.7
4.	INSIDER	ABS-CBN	9.3
5.	**I WITNESS**	**GMA**	**8.7**
6.	**JESSICA SOHO REPORTS**	**GMA**	**8.2**
7.	PRIVATE I	ABS-CBN	8.2
8.	**REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK**	**GMA**	**8.1**
9.	**DEBATE WITH MARE AT PARE**	**GMA**	**6.0**
10.	THE CORRESPONDENTS	ABS-CBN	5.7

** excluding specials*

Asahan po ninyong patuloy kaming nagsisikap na maihatid
ang mga programang karapat-dapat sa inyong tiwala at pagtangkilik
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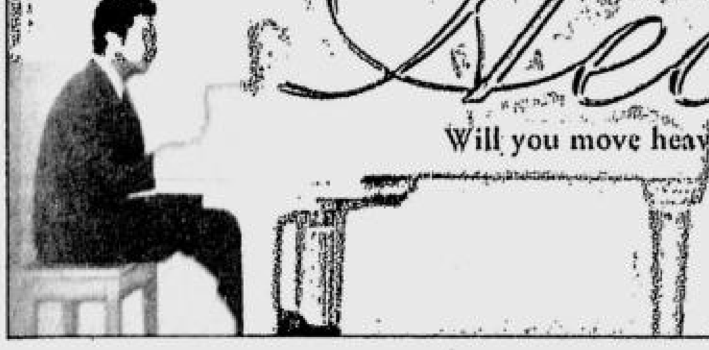

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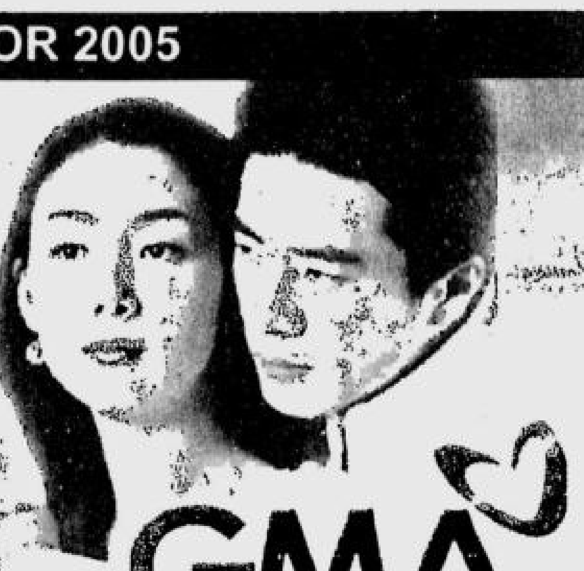

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GMA
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OPENS JANUARY 19

AMERICA'S No. 1 For 3 CONSECUTIVE WEEKS!
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Meet the Fockers
Misery loves family.

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WHITE NOISE MAKES BOX OFFICE HISTORY

Electronic Voice Phenomenon (EVP) found a large audience this weekend at the North American Box Office when White Noise opened with an impressive $24.1 million. Per Daily Variety, the film's gross was the most ever taken in by a film debuting on the first weekend of the year – well above the previous record holder, A Beautful Mind. White Noise's impressive tally makes it the fourth biggest opening weekend for films debuting or expanding nationally in January behind Star Wars – Special Edition in 1997 ($35. 9 million), 2002's Black Hawk Down ($28.6 million) and last year's Along Came Polly ($27.7 million). White Noise also beat Alexander at the box office when both films made their U.K. debut

White Noise stars Michael Keaton as architect Jonathan Rivers who is mourning the sudden and mysterious death of his beloved wife. Rivers considers himself a decent, rational man who would not subscribe to any theories about making contact with those in the afterlife. But a stranger, Raymond Price (Ian McNeice) claims that he heard Jonathan's wife, Anna (Chandra West) through EVP - the process by which the dead, through sound and image, communicate with the living through static and white noise of modern electronic devices. Fueled by his grief, Jonathan finds himself swayed by Raymond's claims, supported by recordings of Anna. He successfully captures a recording of Anna's voice and image with a compeling message for him. In his growing obsession with reaching Anna, Jonathan fails to notice signs of impending danger, summed up by Raymond's assessment of the souls who cross the divide from the other side: "They can't all be nice."

White Noise opens on Jan. 19, released by Viva International Pictures.

VIVA

SM CINEMA movietime

moviepickoftheWeek

BE HEARD
BE LOVED
BE YOU
RAISE YOUR VOICE

HILARY DUFF
OLIVER JAMES

NOW SHOWING

BLADE TRINITY
MTRCB RATING: R13
Now Showing at:
SM Pampanga • Bacoor
Iloilo • Davao
Cagayan de Oro

KUNG FU HUSTLE
MTRCB RATING: PG13
Now Showing at:
SM Pampanga • Marilao
Bacoor • Dasmariñas

OCEAN'S TWELVE
MTRCB RATING: PG13
Now Showing at:
SM Pampanga • Baguio
Bacoor • Batangas
Dasmariñas • Cebu • Iloilo
Cagayan de Oro

LUZON

sm city pampanga
1 OCEAN'S TWELVE
2 BLADE TRINITY
3 KUNG FU HUSTLE
4 SO HAPPY TOGETHER
5 MANO PO 3
6 ENTENG KABISOTE

sm city marilao
1 KUNG FU HUSTLE
2 ONE MISSED CALL
3 BRIDGET JONES 2
4 SO HAPPY TOGETHER

sm city baguio
1 SO HAPPY TOGETHER
2 FORGOTTEN
3 HELLWOLF
4 OCEAN'S TWELVE

sm city bacoor
1 IN SEARCH OF AN IMPOTENT MAN
2 SO HAPPY TOGETHER
3 KUNG FU HUSTLE
4 OCEAN'S TWELVE
5 BLADE TRINITY
6 ENTENG KABISOTE
7 RAISE YOUR VOICE
8 MANO PO 3

sm city batangas
1 ONE MISSED CALL
2 ENTENG KABISOTE
3 OCEAN'S TWELVE
4 BIRTH

sm city dasmariñas
1 KUNG FU HUSTLE
2 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS
3 OCEAN'S TWELVE
4 ENTENG KABISOTE

sm city lucena
1 AFTER THE SUNSET
2 DARKNESS
3 BRIDGET JONES 2
4 ENTENG KABISOTE

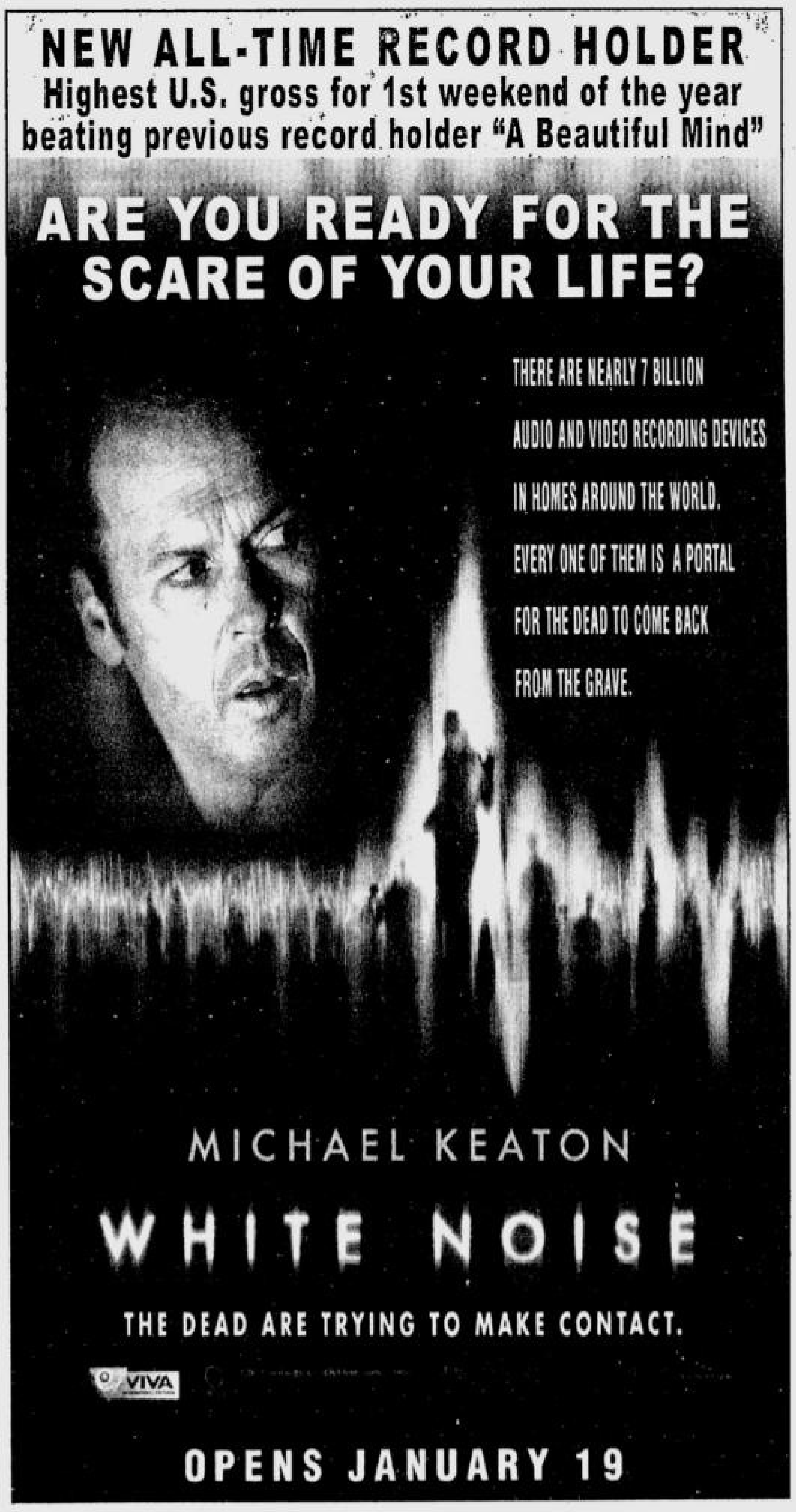
VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

sm city cebu
1 "HANDUMAN" MUSICAL CONCERT
2 OCEAN'S TWELVE
3 GEORGE AND THE DRAGON
4 SO HAPPY TOGETHER
5 PANAGHOY SA SUBA
6 DARKNESS
7 2046
8 BLADE TRINITY

sm city iloilo
1 HONEY
2 RESERVED
3 HELLWOLF
4 BIRTH
5 OCEAN'S TWELVE
6 BLADE TRINITY
7 RESERVED
8 SO HAPPY TOGETHER

sm city davao
1 BLADE TRINITY
2 SO HAPPY TOGETHER
3 GEORGE AND THE DRAGON
4 THE GRUDGE
5 WIMBLEDON
6 OCEAN'S TWELVE

sm city cagayan de oro
1 BLADE TRINITY
2 PANAGHOY SA SUBA
3 BIRTH
4 ONE MISSED CALL


NEW ALL-TIME RECORD HOLDER
Highest U.S. gross for 1st weekend of the year beating previous record holder "A Beautiful Mind"

ARE YOU READY FOR THE SCARE OF YOUR LIFE?

THERE ARE NEARLY 7 BILLION AUDIO AND VIDEO RECORDING DEVICES IN HOMES AROUND THE WORLD. EVERY ONE OF THEM IS A PORTAL FOR THE DEAD TO COME BACK FROM THE GRAVE.

MICHAEL KEATON
WHITE NOISE
THE DEAD ARE TRYING TO MAKE CONTACT.
VIVA
OPENS JANUARY 19

Actor probed on gang link

PARIS—Police questioned French movie star Gerard Depardieu on Wednesday about his links to a fugitive Algerian businessman suspected of money laundering.

He was the second French celebrity—following Catherine Deneuve—to be interrogated by a special police unit investigating embezzlement claims against Abdelmoumene Rafik Khalifa.

Depardieu, 56, star of "Green Card," "Cyrano de Bergerac" and about 100 other films, was seen at several receptions thrown by Khalifa.

Sting, Naomi Campbell, Bono, Melanie Griffith and Pamela Anderson were among guests spotted at a September 2002 bash at his French Riviera villa launching Khalifa TV, a party also attended by Depardieu and Deneuve.

French courts have opened a preliminary investigation into suspected money laundering that targets several companies owned by Khalifa, whose group collapsed in 2003 under a mountain of debt.

Khalifa, 38, son of a former Algerian minister, never explained how he acquired the estimated one billion euros that had let him build an empire that included an airline, catering, car hire, graphic design, construction, a bank and two TV channels from nothing seven years ago. *AFP*

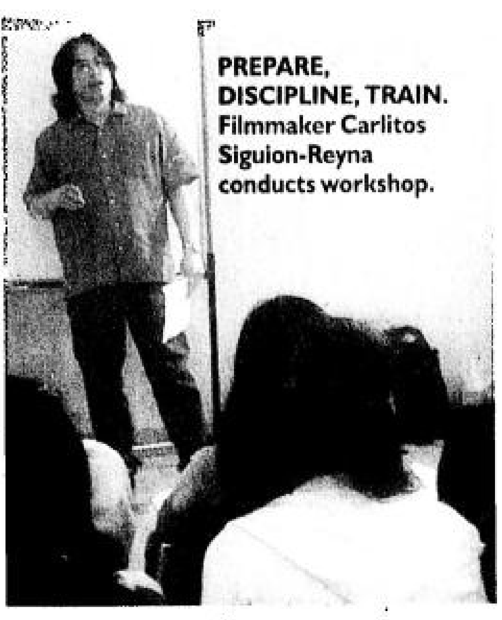
Queen to rule Grammy show

LOS ANGELES—Red-hot musical diva and movie star Queen Latifah will host the 47th annual Grammy Awards show in Los Angeles next month, organizers said Thursday.

The singer, a previous Grammy winner and nominee this year, will also perform during music's biggest celebration that will be held at the Staples Center on Feb. 13.

While Queen Latifah shot to fame as a rapper before becoming an Oscar nominated actress for her role in 2002's "Chicago," she is nominated for a Best Jazz Vocal Album Grammy this year for "The Dana Owens Album." Her groundbreaking 1989 debut "All Hail The Queen" set the standard for female rappers and paved the way for future women in hip-hop to make their way onto the charts.

Queen Latifah is scheduled to produce and star in a new film titled "Beauty Shop" and is currently filming the romantic comedy "Last Holiday in Prague." *AFP*



PREPARE, DISCIPLINE, TRAIN. Filmmaker Carlitos Siguion-Reyna conducts workshop.

32 talents in GMA workshop

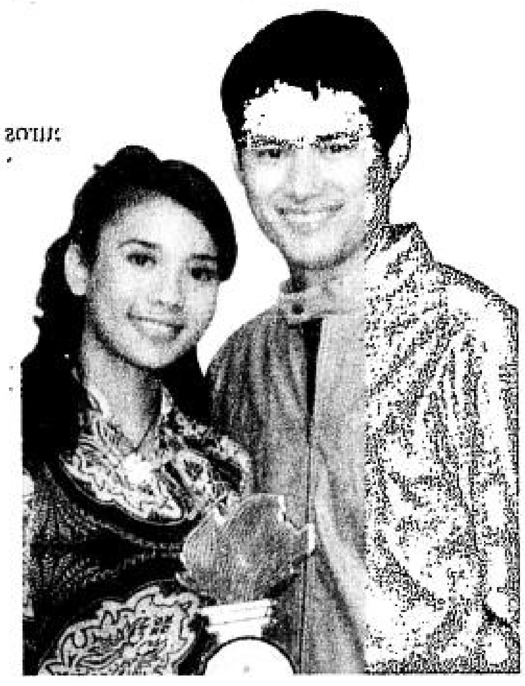
GMA Artist Center recently concluded its first Acting Workshop for Film and Television.. A total of 32 young talents—19 teens and young adults, 13 kids—participated.

The intensive workshop was spearheaded by television and movie experts led by writer-director and acting coach Rahyan Carlos, and supervised by members of the Directors Guild of the Philippines, including its president Carlitos Siguion-Reyna, and Mark Reyes; actors Bodgie Pascua and Hero Bautista; and acting coaches Meleen Rodriguez and Joy Florendo.

Ida Henares, network assistant vice president for GMAAC, said the workshop was meant to thoroughly prepare, discipline, and train the actors. She said the participants could immediately put into action what they learned, since the training was specifically for a digital film, "Kilig... Pintig... Yanig," a teen comedy, drama, and suspense trilogy that premieres on Jan. 31 at Glorietta 1, Cinema 2 in Makati.

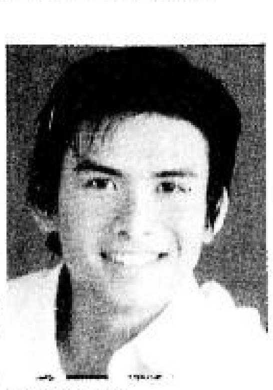
The trilogy is written by Kit Villanueva Langit, Bibeth Orteza, and Rahyan Carlos.

GMAAC opens its doors to the public as it accepts enrollees for subsequent workshops. Henares said the center offers courses in theater acting and, later, in dance, voice, stage presence, and hosting.



'MANO PO' TOUR
The "Mano Po" album tour will be at SM Bicutan today, Jan. 16. The free show features Karyle and Jerome John Hughes performing "Pagbigyan ang Puso," the winner of the Best Movie Theme Song award in the recent Metro Manila Film Festival. "Pagbigyan ang Puso" was also translated into a music video with two versions which are included in the album released by Universal Records. The second version contains film clips from the MIFF Best Film, "Mano Po 3" produced by MaQ Productions and released by Regal Films. All versions of the music video were directed by Jeffrey Tan.

Christian Bautista Artist of the Year



BAUTISTA

CHRISTIAN Bautista was recently hailed by station Monster Radio RX 93.1 as its 2004 Male Artist of the Year. The award will be presented to the 23-year-old Christian today, Jan. 16, on "Asap" on ABS-CBN Channel 2.

After a string of hit singles including "The Way You Look at Me," "Hands to Heaven" and "Colour Everywhere," Christian's career is off to new heights this year, starting with his double-platinum self-titled debut album from Warner Music Philippines.

Christian's first hit, "The Way You Look at Me," also made it to the No. 1 spot on Indonesia's radio charts, beating both foreign and local acts in the world's largest archipelago.

His fourth single, "Kailan Pa Ma'y Ikaw," is expected to be his first Filipino hit. His debut album is still available from Warner Music Philippines in CDs and cassettes.

GET READY FOR PRISTONTALE!

Online gaming has never been this huge since it hit the country just recently. Now there are more MMORPGs (massively multi-player online role-playing games) coming out since a lot of young people just can't get enough of these engaging high-end games. They get hooked because the games are entertaining, eye-catching and most importantly fun! It's also a venue to meet new friends from all parts of the country and sometimes, even abroad.

This January, Netplay Inc. introduces a full 3D online game from Korea called Pristontale. This arcade-level enhanced adventure which looks like an actual animated film takes place in the continent of Priston where two tribes, Morion and Tempskron, must work together in order to save their land from menacing evil forces. Pristontale has a unique game-play as it presents a very challenging experience to all ages. Players can have their weapons and armour Mixed and Aged which make game-play even more exciting. Gaming enthusiasts can register and play by checking out the official game website (www.netplay.com).

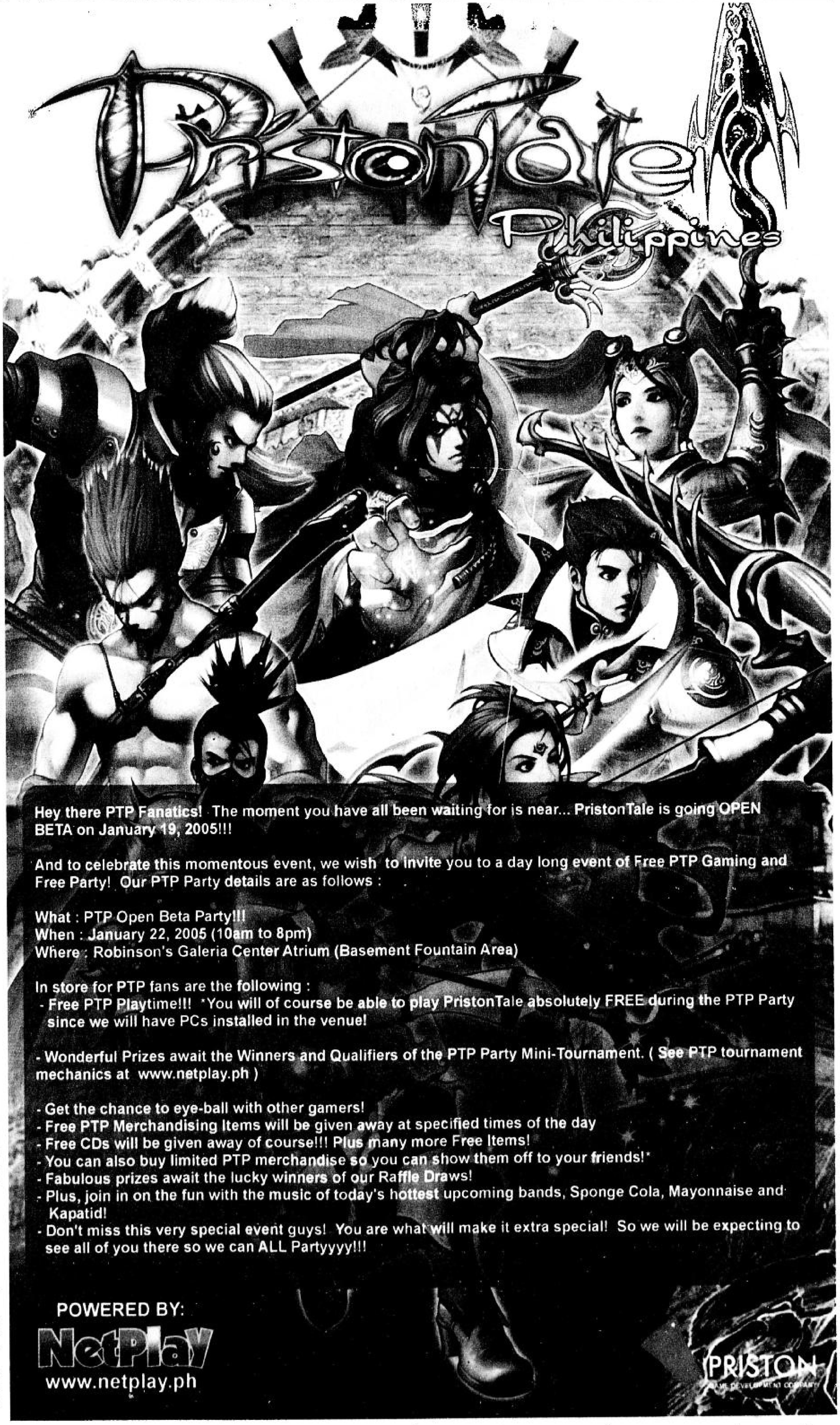
Pristontale initially had its Closed Beta testing last December and the response was overwhelming. Netplay targeted internet cafes, schools and major shopping malls around the country to distribute Game CD installers and exclusive Pristontale merchandise. This new year, a lot of exciting events are lined up for Pristontale Philippine's (PTP) arrival in the multimedia entertainment arena. To make it more exciting, Netplay has pre-selected certain internet cafes for Free Play by gamers which shall start on January 12. The list of these cafes could be found in Netplay's website.

On **January 19, PTP** is going on Open Beta, where gamers can play Pristontale absolutely free. Get ready to party at the Grand Launching on **January 22** at the **Robinson's Galleria Fountain Area.** A gaming section will be set up to accommodate newbies and game fanatics. A registration booth will also be included plus a merchandising area for limited Pristontale items. Registration opens at 10am while all other programs follow.

Some of the highlights of the whole day event include a musical show featuring costume plays of the eight main game characters, choreographed fight scenes and 3 live bands performing namely Kapatid, Sponge Cola and Mayonnaise. Admission is absolutely Free!

For those in the provinces, watch out for the Pristontale launch in Metro Cebu and Davao to be announced very soon. Pristontale invades the country so **LET'S PARTY!**

ADVT.



Hey there PTP Fanatics! The moment you have all been waiting for is near... PristonTale is going OPEN BETA on January 19, 2005!!!

And to celebrate this momentous event, we wish to invite you to a day long event of Free PTP Gaming and Free Party! Our PTP Party details are as follows :

What : PTP Open Beta Party!!!
When : January 22, 2005 (10am to 8pm)
Where : Robinson's Galeria Center Atrium (Basement Fountain Area)

In store for PTP fans are the following :

- Free PTP Playtime!!! *You will of course be able to play PristonTale absolutely FREE during the PTP Party since we will have PCs installed in the venue!
- Wonderful Prizes await the Winners and Qualifiers of the PTP Party Mini-Tournament. (See PTP tournament mechanics at www.netplay.ph)
- Get the chance to eye-ball with other gamers!
- Free PTP Merchandising Items will be given away at specified times of the day
- Free CDs will be given away of course!!! Plus many more Free Items!
- You can also buy limited PTP merchandise so you can show them off to your friends!*
- Fabulous prizes await the lucky winners of our Raffle Draws!
- Plus, join in on the fun with the music of today's hottest upcoming bands, Sponge Cola, Mayonnaise and Kapatid!
- Don't miss this very special event guys! You are what will make it extra special! So we will be expecting to see all of you there so we can ALL Partyyyy!!!

POWERED BY:
www.netplay.ph

Starbucks pushes new drink, treats moviegoers in US theaters

LOS ANGELES—Starbucks Corp., in its latest effort to turn the heads of US consumers, is trying to play Fairy Godmother.

The coffee shop chain last weekend picked up the tab for movie tickets at several theaters across the country, part of what it said is a widespread strategy to help promote new products and services—in this case a new chocolate drink.

The promotion, in which Starbucks paid for movie tickets for an hour on a busy Saturday evening, was intended to catch movie-goers off-guard.

"It wasn't for someone who just wanted to see a free movie," said Kevin Gallagher, operations manager for Los Angeles-based Laemmle Theaters. "It was for people who would have paid for the tickets anyway."

Gallagher estimated that the promotion at Pasadena's Laemmle Playhouse 7 theater had cost Starbucks about $6,000. That theater, which mainly shows art-house and independent films, was chosen because Starbucks wanted to target an older demographic, Gallagher added.

"It's a minor expense overall for Starbucks, but in the mind of the beneficiary it's something that really stands out," said McAdams Wright Ragen analyst Dan Geiman, who has a "buy" rating on Starbucks shares. He does not own Starbucks stock.

Parking meters

The Seattle company, which is doing eight similar events at movie theaters and symphony performances nationwide over a couple of weeks, is also offering free samples and coupons for its latest new product, a drinking chocolate called Chantico.

Anne Saunders, Starbucks' senior vice president of marketing for its North American retail operations, said the promotion was one of a number of efforts the company has made to surprise its customers with special treats and focus its advertising locally.

Similar promotions have included paying for subway tokens and gas fill-ups in New York in celebration of the chain's 10th anniversary in the Big Apple.

During the holidays, Starbucks also sprang for parking meters on a busy Dallas shopping strip, Saunders said.

"It was certainly appreciated," said Kurt Voelker, a screenwriter who received a free ticket in Pasadena last weekend. He added, however, that the promotion probably wouldn't send him into his neighborhood Starbucks.

"My wife and I both patronize the small local place and have sworn never to go to Starbucks," Voelker said. "But they can buy my movie ticket any time they want."

Reuters

Slapshock, Greyhoundz in Big Bucks' Sinulog gig

TO CELEBRATE the 25th year of the Sinulog festival in Cebu, Big Bucks Restaurant and Bar on Salinas Drive in Lahug City will host the performances of top rock bands Slapshock and Greyhoundz in a special warehouse show today, Sinulog Day.

The show will also feature Cebu's top rock bands Powerspoonz, Smooth Friction, the L.A. Fil-Am rock band Crossing Fingers, and the Butuan City rock band Dog Fight.

Slapshock is an EMI recording artist and is the country's top rap-metal band. It recently finished recording its fourth album.

All its past three albums have reached platinum status. Slapshocks hopes to make it even bigger with its fourth album.

The group has won titles like Best Bassist of the Year and Band of the Year in the NU Rock Awards and others.

Slapshock is composed of lead vocalist Jamir Garcia, bassist Lee Nadela, lead guitarists Lean Ansing and Gerry Basco and former drummer Chi Evora.

Performing back to back with the group today is Greyhoundz, an alternative metal band lead by vocalist Reg Rubio.

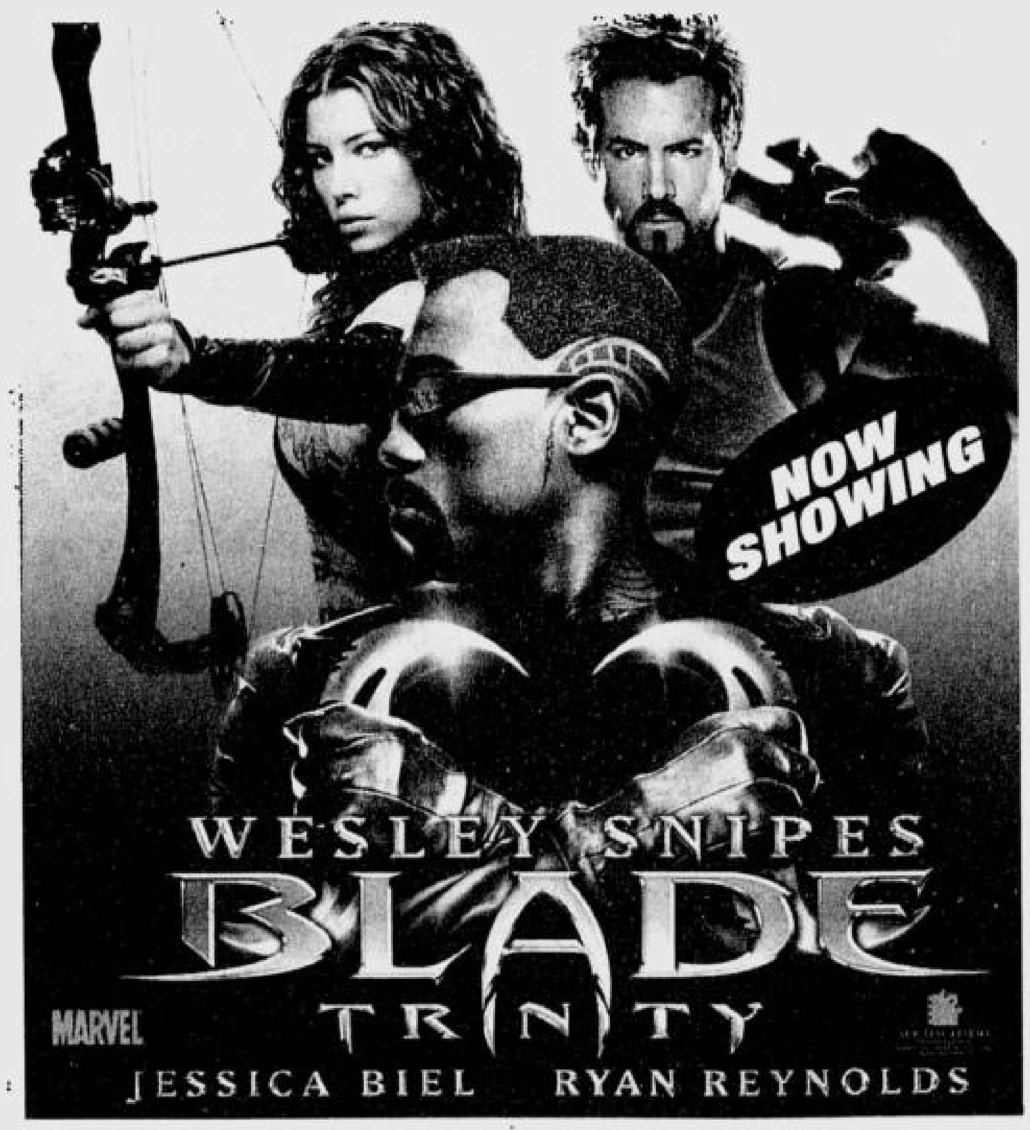
Greyhoundz has released several albums.

The Slapshock and Greyhoundz warehouse gig is presented by Dickies Jeans USA, Red Horse Beer, Air Philippines, Big Bucks Resto and Bar and Kreative Events and More.

Entrance to the show is P100.

SLAPSHOCK. All their first three albums went platinum.

THE #1 MOVIE IN MANILA !
From MARVEL, the creator of SPIDERMAN



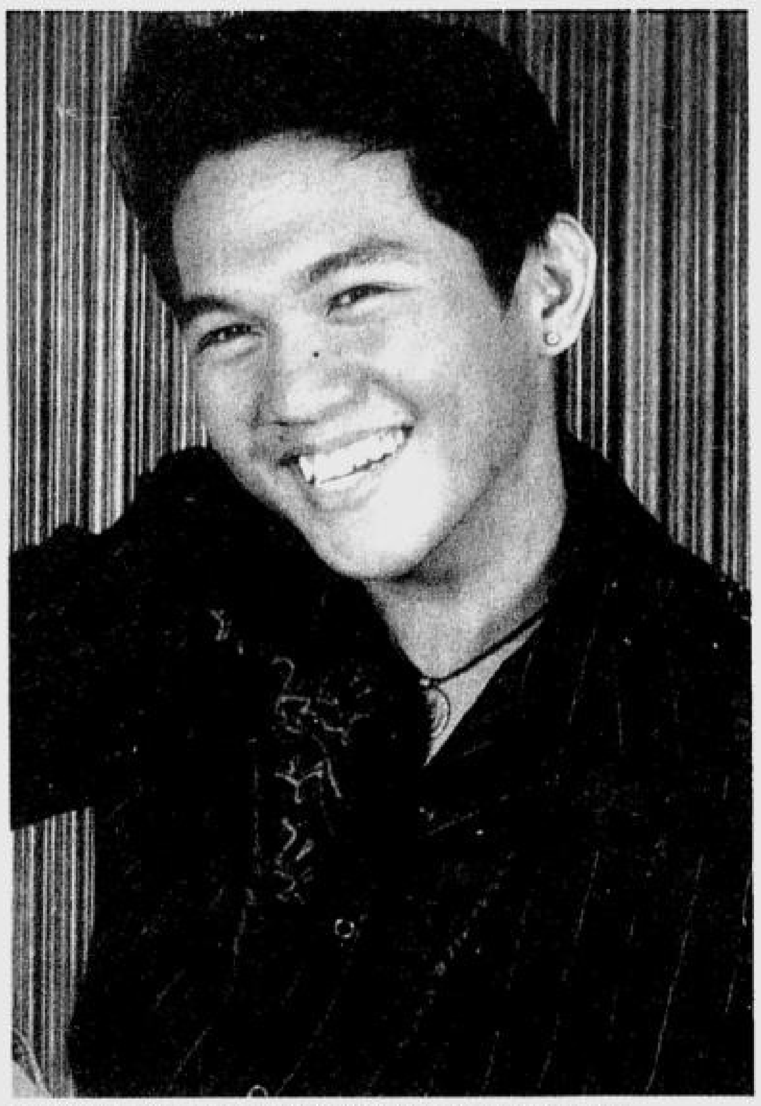
OPENS JAN. 26
MTRCB RATING PG-13 (CHILDREN BELOW 13 YRS. OLD WILL ONLY BE ALLOWED IF ACCOMPANIED BY PARENT OR ADULT)
When two people separated by time and distance risk their lives to be with each other... what coul it be?
JOAQUIN PHOENIX / CLAIRE DANES
IT'S ALL ABOUT LOVE
Distributed by Solar Entertainment Corporation

Bread man dies

NASHVILLE, Tennessee—James Arthur "Jimmy" Griffin, a founding member of the 1970s pop group Bread who shared an Oscar for co-writing "For All We Know," died of complications from cancer. He was 61.

Griffin, who died Tuesday at his home in Franklin, sang harmony and played guitar with Bread, whose soft-rock hits included "Make It With You," "Baby I'm-a Want You" and "Everything I Own."

"For All We Know," from the movie "Lovers and Other Strangers," won a 1970 Academy Award and was a hit for The Carpenters. Griffin, David Gates and Robb Royer released Bread's debut album in 1968. Griffin left the band in 1973 and rejoined in 1976 before it broke up in a swirl of rancor and lawsuits. *AP*



"DENMARK IDOL." Christian Mendoza, winner of the '03 Copenhagen edition of the international singing talent search

Pinoy 'Idol'

SHOW TIME

MEET the "Denmark Idol." He's Pinoy.

Christian Mendoza, who won the 2003 Copenhagen edition of the international singing talent search, is ranked with Kelly Clarkson, Ruben Studdard and Fantasia Barrino of the United States, Will Young of Britain, Guy Sebastian of Australia, and Kurt Nielsen or Norway. .

Before Jasmine Trias or Camile Velasco made waves in last year's "American Idol," Christian was already wowing audiences in Denmark.

He won the competition by garnering 57 percent of the votes during the finals in December of that year.

He was an early favorite, with his effortless interpretations of such challenging pieces as Michael Bolton's "When a Man Loves a Woman," Whitney Houston's "The Greatest Love of All," and even the popular Danish song "Smuk Sorn Et Stjerneskud."

Early start

His mandatory piece for the finals, "Mystery to Me," also became the first single he released in his adopted country.

Christian's love for singing began in the Philippines at the tender age of five, when he sang gospel music in a Baptist church. By the time he turned six, he knew where he was headed. He told his mother that he wanted to be a pop star. When he was in his teens, Christian relocated to Copenhagen to join his parents who had earlier gone there to work.

Since his "Denmark Idol" win, life has not been the same for the talented Pinoy. He has guested in several shows, recorded his debut album, and undergone further voice training. He has also found time to learn the Danish language.

"Can't Break Me," featuring the R&B hit "It's All About You," was released in November by top Denmark producers Providers and The Shack. It was an instant critical and commercial success. In the Philippines, the album will soon be released by BMG Records. The company is also set to bring Christian to Manila, so he can share this rare and precious victory with his *kababayans*.

Drink up or speak up. Our continued reliance on imported fossil fuels like coal and oil for energy is one of the largest reasons behind problems like global warming, air pollution, the rise in respiratory ailments, and the worsening condition of our water supplies. This dependence also leaves us economically vulnerable to the spiralling cost of coal and oil in the world market. And things will only get murkier unless we reduce our use of coal and oil and push for the increased use of renewable energy sources like geothermal, wind, biomass, hydro, and solar. Speak up and let the government know you want clean energy. Text WWF YES <Your Name> to 2366 for Globe (P2.50/text) or log on to www.powerswitch.org.ph/vote. Act now and help get the Renewable Energy Bill passed into law. Maybe then, the future won't be such a hard thing to swallow.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER WWF

Ginger adds spice to Filipino beauty titles

SHOW STOPPER

By Armin Adina

EVEN without the pearl-encrusted crown on her head and the sash that reads "Miss Fiesta Filipina 2004," Ginger Ann Conejero would make heads turn.

It's hard to miss the walking vision—5-foot-7 frame, flawless complexion, lovely eyes. However, the Chicago-born beauty is far from a "typical" beauty queen.

She walks like a lady, for one thing, not like a trained ramp model. And she is not comfortable in front of the cameras; she would rather be photographed in candid poses.

Ginger is in the country for a three-week visit as part of her prize in the pageant held last June 12 when the Filipino community in San Francisco celebrated Philippine Independence Day.

This is not her first time in the country, though. She visits often, in fact, the last time being in the summer of 2004.

To have fun while here, she hangs out with cousins in Greenbelt, and frequents V Bar and Temple. She has also checked out the scenes in Libis and Malate.

Ginger was raised in San Francisco by pure Filipino parents—Azalea, a native of Negros Occidental, and Antonio, from Albay, Bicol—speaking Tagalog at home and feasting on such local fare as *pancit, adobo* and *laing* prepared by her mom.

Smashing

"Grabe!" quipped the 21-year-old Ginger, recalling her experience in the pageant. It was her first beauty contest. "I didn't expect to win, I was just there for the experience and to have a good time."

Barely a month after she received her Political Science degree from the University of Southern California in Los Angeles, Ginger was convinced by pageant organizer Ferdi Villar to give it a try. Ignoring previous invitations to do modeling or take part in similar pageants, she finally gave in.

"All the girls were svelte, and I looked way different," she recalled. Because she was a high school varsity swimmer, she has shoulders broader than the "ideal" by pageant standards.

In any case, all that physical activity apparently did her body a lot of good, since she looked smashing on stage in any outfit.

Sen. Jinggoy Estrada, a special guest during the pageant, crowned her. Her victory came as no surprise to the spectators, but as far as she is concerned, "*Sinuwerte lang* (I was just lucky)."

No cheerleader

Ginger was never the cheerleader type. Rather, she has always busied herself with sports. She played basketball with her dad. "He used to play in college," she explained. "*Hindi ko pa rin siya matalo* (I still can't beat him)."

She also enjoys watching college football. "I like it better than pro league," she said.

But she enjoys "girl stuff" as well, for instance, shopping for lip gloss in varying shades, pens and little things, and going to Bloomingdale's.

"Shopping is a family affair," she confessed. The American store chain Target is heaven for her. "I can stay there for two hours," she said.

She watches TV a lot like most young women, favoring Television is tops for entertainment. She prefers "serious" programs such as "C.S.I." and "Alias" to sitcoms. "I have DVDs of 'Alias' first three seasons," she said, laughing. A day before her flight to Manila, she paused from packing her bags to watch the show's two-hour season premiere.

"Felicity" she adores, Ginger said, because "I can relate to the character."

She admires Hollywood hunks Colin Farrell, George Clooney and Paul Walker, and screen goddesses Julia Roberts and Catherine Zeta-Jones. She also likes Reese Witherspoon and Renee Zellweger. "I enjoy musicals," she revealed, "like 'Chicago' and 'Moulin Rouge.'"

But she has local musicians on her list as well—South Border, Freestyle, Side A, and Christian Bautista.

Miss Fiesta

WALKING VISION. The 5-foot-7 with the flawless skin complexion and lovely eyes thinks she's far from a "typical" beauty queen. "All the [other] girls were svelte and I looked way different," she recalls.

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

"I heard [Christian's] song 'Hands to Heaven' when I was here last year and bought his CD," Ginger said. "Since then, I've been listening to his music."

Very opinionated

In college, Ginger was a big follower of a group called "Renaissance Scholars" whose members, students of different majors, gathered to discuss subjects of interest to them. She was a very opinionated student herself.

She cherishes her internship with the office of California Sen. Diane Feinstein. "There, I became aware of how politics actually works," she said.

Ginger has her sights on a Law degree. She is set to take a qualifying exam this Spring, and is preparing for it between her official duties as ambassador of goodwill and Philippine tourism in San Francisco. She'd like to work with government.

She explained: "Civil service in the United States has been exciting these past few years, although working in the private sector would still be nice."

Right after her coronation, the San Francisco police approached her and asked if she was interested in community service. She grabbed the chance.

"I talked to young girls 14 or 15 years old, trying to make them feel special, and discussed a lot of stuff." She was surprised to learn that the girls no longer went to school, and that in fact some of them already had kids or, in fact, a few abortions.

Not perfect

But Ginger, who will crown her successor in June, was quick to add that she does not want to be considered a role model.

"I'm not perfect, I just want to touch lives, and maybe inspire people," she said.

What about a boyfriend?

"I haven't found him yet," was her simple reply.

To win her heart, she said, a man should love sports as much as she does, and he should be smart, "so we can have good conversations."

Most important, he should have a sense of humor, she pointed out. "That lightens up life."

CNN HK anchor man named to Beijing post

AWARD-WINNING journalist Stan Grant, formerly based at CNN's regional headquarters in Hong Kong, has been appointed Beijing Correspondent. His HK anchor/correspondent post will be taken over by Hugh Riminton, a veteran coming in from The Nine Network in Australia.

This was announced recently by Chris Cramer, CNN International managing director.

"Stan and Hugh reinforce CNN's commitment to serious news coverage and analysis of events in the Asia Pacific," said Cramer. "China's growth and influence will be a major story in the coming years and Stan's credentials will serve us well."

Grant joined Beijing Bureau Chief Jaime Flor Cruz early this month. Riminton anchors the daily show "CNN Today" with Kristie Lu Stout.

Since joining CNN in 2001, Grant has co-anchored the network's daily morning show and reported on a wide range of news stories from China, Jerusalem, and other countries across Asia. In 2003, he traveled with the "Lifeline Express" to rural areas in China, looking into how a team of volunteer Chinese doctors, nurses and technicians helped cataract sufferers.

A veteran journalist with more than 20 years of experience, Grant also covered a lot of major global news events, including the federal elections in Australia, South Africa's elections in 1992, Hong Kong's handover to China and the death of Princess Diana in 1997.

GRANT

Riminton has reported and presented news from more than 30 countries, including the 2003 war in Iraq and the resurgence of slavery in Sudan in 1999.

A leading 24-hour news and information network, CNN International brings comprehensive news coverage to more than 175 million television households in more than 200 countries and territories.

THE BIGGEST CIRCLES FOR GOOD LUCK!
Enchanted Kingdom
Feel the Magic

At Enchanted Kingdom, you'll find the biggest circles for good fortune in the Year of the Rooster! Bring the whole family and witness the special dragon and lion dance and wushu exhibition on February 12 and 13. Be one of the lucky guests to receive ang pao envelopes with Php 80 cash coupons from February 9 to 13. So scream, loop, circle your way to a happier New Year!!!

Park Schedule
January 10 to March 27, 2005
Monday - Tuesday, Closed
Wednesday - Friday, 10:00 AM - 7:00 PM
Saturday & Sunday, 10:00 AM - 10:00 PM
Fireworks display every weekend at 9 PM

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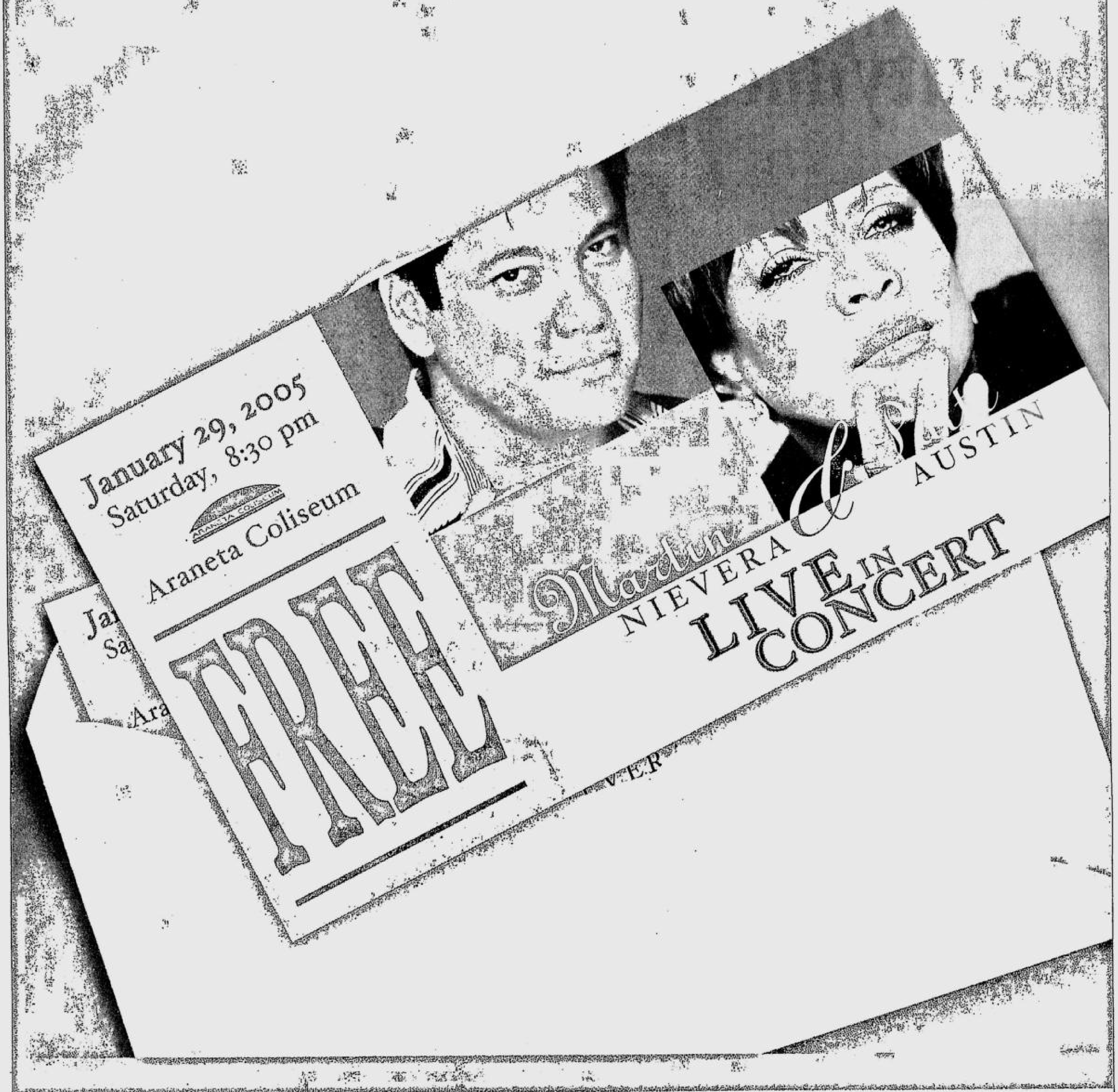
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How Do You Keep The Music Playing	MNP4
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MARTIN NIEVERA:	
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Patti Austin

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Patti
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Patti Austin
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MARTIN
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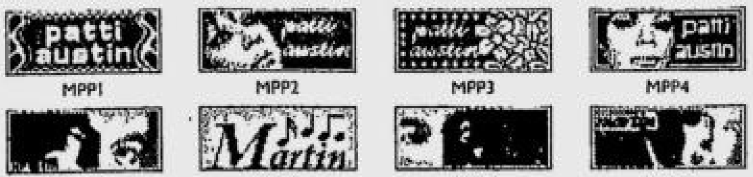
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MPP5
Martin
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MPP7
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TEA TIME TEASE. Pretty in petals of white chiffon

Sandara's romance

By Larry Leviste
Contributor

SANDARA Park, ABS-CBN's most popular and powerful young star today, has just returned from her native Korea for her holiday break—and she is fuming mad.

It seems the Korean doll's "semi-boyfriend," Joseph Bitagcol, from the same network's talent search that yielded Sandara, has a roving eye.

"He isn't my boyfriend yet," declares Sandara. "We sort of had a mutual understanding when I left last December 22 [to take a break in Korea]. We even had matching jackets made and I wore mine in Seoul.

"I guess that's the nature of Filipino boys," she adds while changing into her made-to-order couture by JC Buendia for this exclusive pictorial. "They can't help themselves. That's why I'll probably marry a Korean. [Korean boys] are more faithful."

JC Buendia, who makes the formal gowns that the young star wears to awards nights, says Sandara has great fashion sense. She likes to dress up glamorously when the occasion calls for it. Although petite and a size-zero, the 20-year-old has string shoulders and a good posture to carry JC's style without effort.

Hero Angeles, Sandara's onscreen love interest, has the qualities of a "gentleman and is very sweet," says Sandara.

"Hero and I have a great working relationship," she says. "We're both

SANDARA'S/ A4-3

SOFT, SWEET. Strapless gown in velvet and tulle by JC Buendia

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Reality TV shows go from real to surreal

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

REALITY shows are the toast of the TV scene these days, but public interest in them is waning, so producers have to think up more unusual or even shocking things to do. Trouble is, pushing the envelope this way has resulted in some disturbing "entertainment."

For instance, all those "blind date" reality programs that show dating couples smooching in jacuzzis, licking honey off each other's chests, and gasping hot somethings into each other's various orifices.

Can you do all those sexy things on TV? No, you can't. So, why do they? Because they're desperate to keep randy and jaded viewers from switching to another channel, like maybe the one that shows Paris Hilton cavorting with a muddy mob of barnyard animals—in another reality show that's frantically gone from the real to the surreal!

What about the reality show that empowers young men and women to select wives for their divorced or widowed dads? Or the program that requires a girl to choose her beau from a number of *masked* suitors?

But the over-the-top reality TV show that could take the cake is a still-untitled program that encourages married couples to be unfaithful.

It finds its contestants on a matchmaking website that has almost 300,000 members. The show follows four couples through the different extramarital possibilities made possible by the "cheating" website.

The show's critics diss it for threatening the sanctity of marriage. They fear that, by putting real-life infidelity on the small screen, the program could make it seem more "acceptable," or even "in."

What could come next? Reality shows on kleptomania, pyromania, incest? Clearly, TV watchdog groups have to tell over-eager broadcast people when and how to keep their desperate race for ratings within reason—and according to the TV programming code.

'More Than Human'

EVERY Saturday at 11 p.m. on the Discovery Channel, "More Than Human" explores the boundaries of man's physical and mental capabilities. The 13-part series introduces viewers to people with superhuman talents and astounding stories to tell.

Each episode reconstructs some of the most extraordinary feats of survivals ever documented, and demonstrates the abilities of exceptional human beings.

The show is hosted by **John Pullum**, considered by some as America's funniest mind reader and hypnotist.

Episodes this month: Jan. 15, "Friends in Small Places." Experts recreate a survivor's amazing "buried alive" tale from the 1989 San Francisco earthquake. We also get a look inside the double joints of the world's greatest contortionist, plus stunt driving meets parallel parking at 90 miles an hour. (Replays Jan. 16 at 3 a.m.; and Jan. 17 at 11 a.m.)

Jan. 22, "Up, Up, and Almost Away." A frightening near-death impalement is replicated and analyzed by medical and scientific experts. Other features are on a 15-year-old girl who can climb walls at lightning speed, and on the art of stacking bowling balls.

Jan. 29, "A Mighty Wind." A tornado survivor watches experts recreate the 300-mph winds of the 1999 Oklahoma City disaster. And there are features on slackline walkers who use a tightrope without the "tight," and a martial artist who can bend iron with his throat.

At One Acts Theater

THIS month, Koiné Theater Foundation's One Acts Theater is bringing back **Niel de Mesa's** "Huling Ensayo Para sa Iyo" and **Wilfrido Ma. Guerrero's** "Call Me Flory" on Jan. 21, 22, 28 and 29 at 7:30 p.m. (2/F, Forab Bldg., 121 Kamuning Rd., Quezon City).

"Huling Ensayo..." is a one-woman narrative play about a woman's surprise birthday preparations for her loved one, which are busted by a tragic phone call that sends her into an emotional roller-coaster ride. **Mae Zarris** stars.

And "Flory" is a light comedy about a socialite's name-dropping and poor-berating ways, until her true self is revealed by her past.

Call 410-4485.

'Jazz in the City'

THE TWO-DISC compilation, "Jazz in the City," takes 30 well-loved songs, gives them a new, modern sound, and has them sung by contemporary pop and blues artists.

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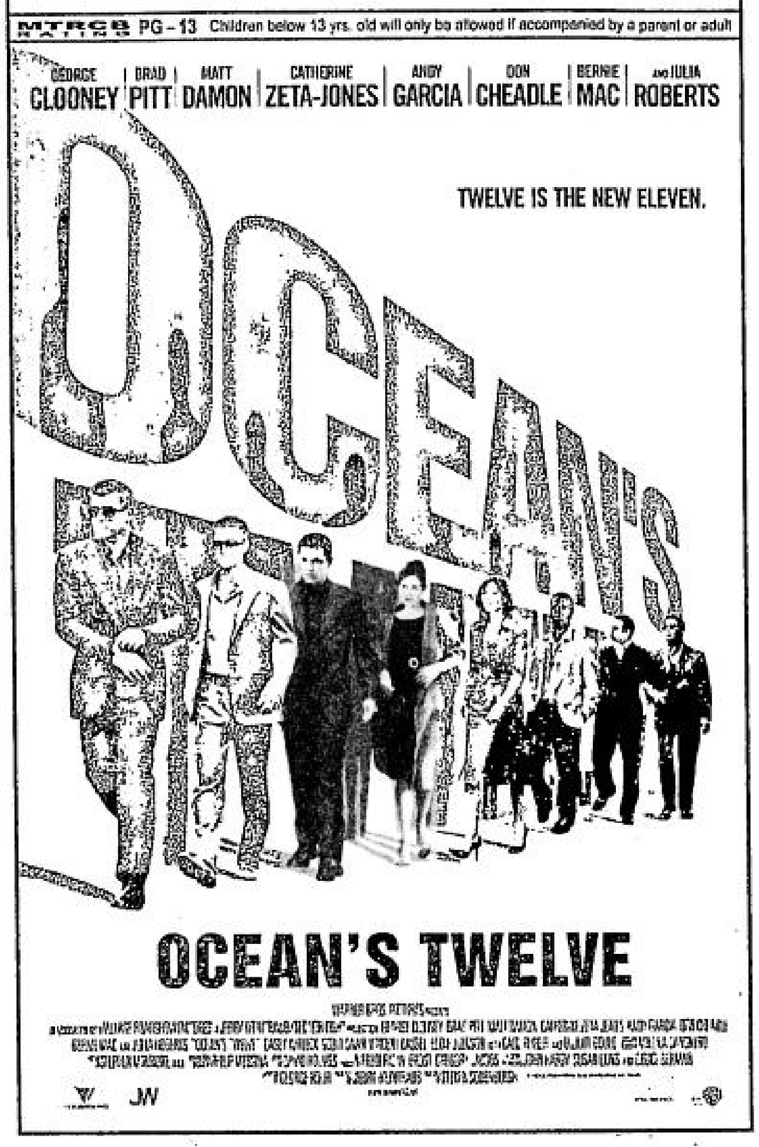

JUDGES Randy Jackson, Simon Cowell and Paula Abdul

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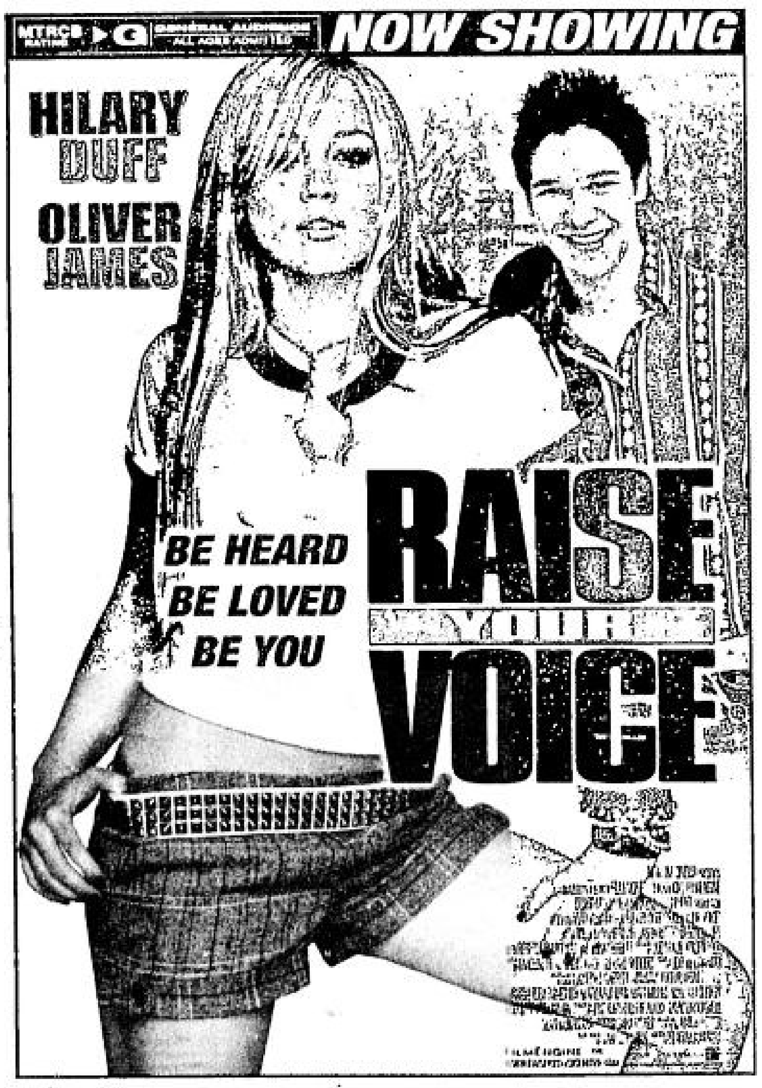

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'American Idol' Season 4 begins

SHOW TIME

CATCH "American Idol" Season 4 on ABC starting Wednesday next week.

Filipino fans can watch the phenomenal talent search simultaneous with its US showing.

With the show's much awaited return, of course, comes host Ryan Seacrest and judges Simon Cowell, Paula Abdul and Randy Jackson.

Some things have changed, though. For one thing, Abdul has brought in a feng shui expert to reconfigure the set to make it more harmonious.

Several stars—including Gene Simmons, LL Cool J, Brandy, Kenny Loggins and Mark McGrath—will sit in the audition rounds to determine who goes to Hollywood.

There will be 10 episodes devoted to auditions, six in various audition cities and four in Hollywood.

Five weeks into the season, the show proceeds with the live performance/elimination shows.

Instead of 36 finalists at the end of the Hollywood round, the judges will select 12 male and 12 female singers.

In the semifinals, one group performs on Monday and the other on Tuesday, with voting on both nights.

On Wednesday, two singers from each group will be eliminated until only six males and six females remain.

NEXT ATTRACTION
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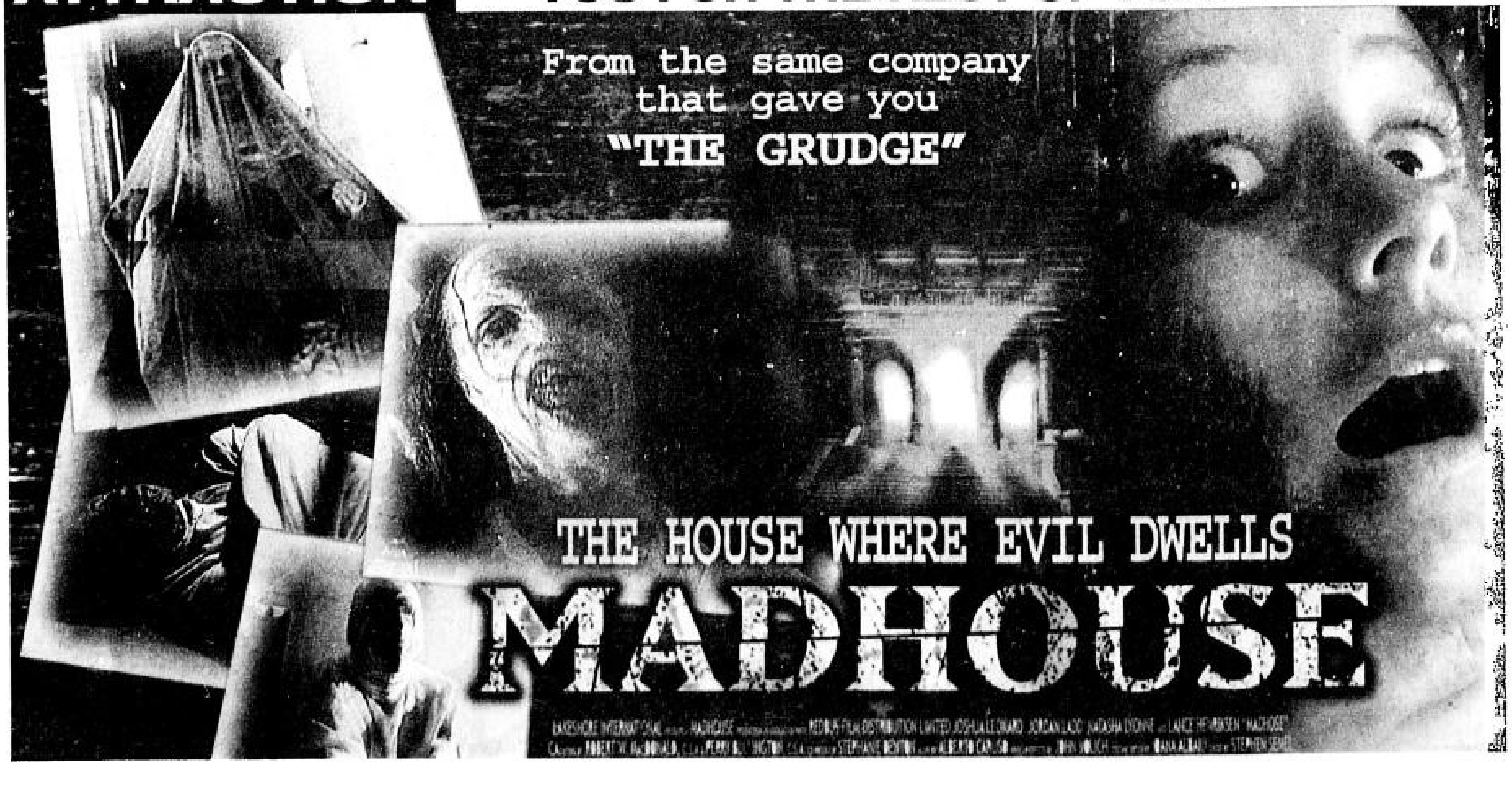

From the same company that gave you "THE GRUDGE"
THE HOUSE WHERE EVIL DWELLS
MADHOUSE

Best of beauty experts give free makeover

FOR THE FIRST time on Philippine television, the country's top experts in beauty and fashion get together for the ultimate beauty makeover segment—on ABS-CBN's daily morning show, "Magandang Umaga Bayan."

Doctor to the stars Vicki Belo joins salon expert David Charlton—the man behind David's Salon—and renowned couturier Renee Salud to round out TV's newest beauty trio.

The segment will give free makeovers to viewers and engage them in a style similar to that of "E! Fashion Emergency" and "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy," but with a very Filipino twist.

With Belo, the beauty industry's most famous dermatologist and cosmetic surgeon, taking care of skin and body needs, Charlton taking care of grooming and sparkle, and Salud dispensing fashion advice, the "Magandang Umaga Bayan" segment is definitely a daily morning ritual worth looking forward to.

"Magandang Umaga Bayan" is aired weekdays on ABS-CBN, 5:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.

Sandara's romance

From page A4-1

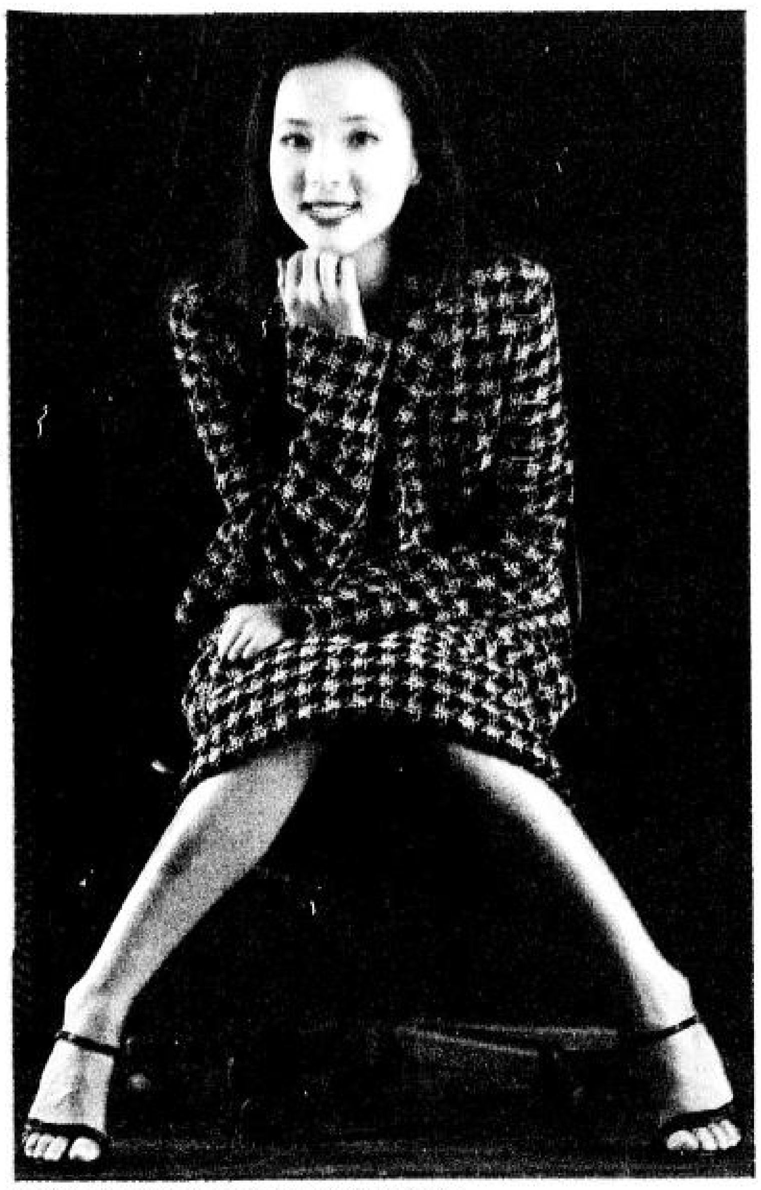
shy and simple. This industry can be full of fakes, you know."

Last month, Sandara, Sen. Miriam Santiago and broadcaster Korina Sanchez were named People of the Year. And why not, her "Becuz of You" movie from Star Cinema was a blockbuster.

She also endorses a shampoo brand with Kristine Hermosa that has the catchiest music video and her "SCQ (Star Circle Quest) Reload" and "Sandara's Romance" are top-rated television shows.

Sandara says she is taping for a guest appearance on the fantaserye "Krystala," starring Judy Ann Santos, on ABS-CBN.

STYLED AND DIRECTED BY LARRY LEVISTE
PHOTOS BY JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN
COUTURE CREATIONS BY JC BUENDIA
HAIR BY ARLEEN LIZARDO OF SALON PRIVE, SHANGRI-LA MAKATI
MAKE-UP BY JUANITA ARCENO



GROWN UP. In a houndstooth tweed suit

MANDARIN moment. Frayed tweed blazer with matching skirt

FALL SHADES. Long coat and slip dress

8 KEYS TO YOUR DIFFERENT INTERESTS

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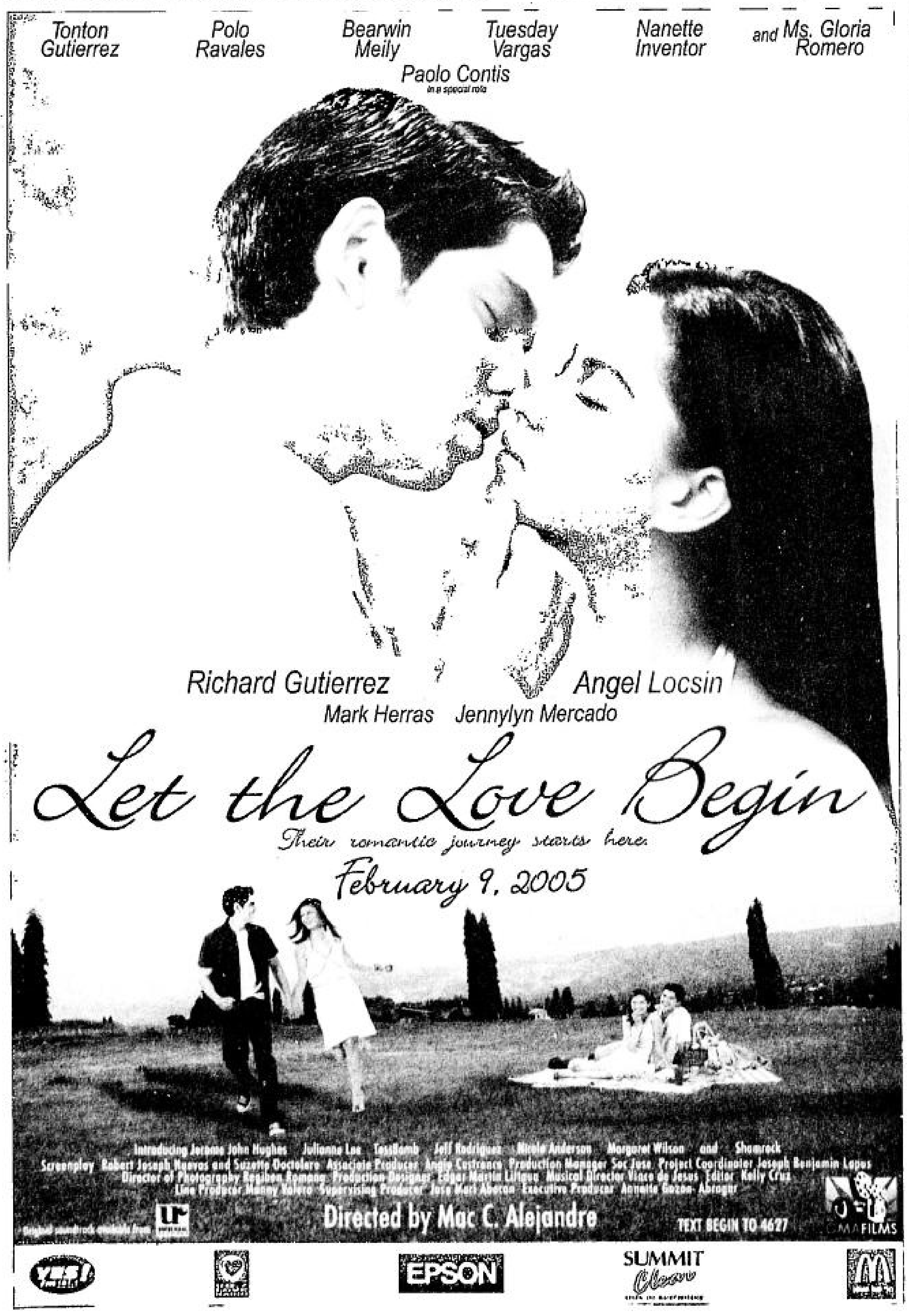

Tonton Gutierrez   Polo Ravales   Bearwin Meily   Tuesday Vargas   Nanette Inventor   and Ms. Gloria Romero
Paolo Contis
in a special role

Richard Gutierrez   Angel Locsin
Mark Herras   Jennylyn Mercado

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February 9, 2005

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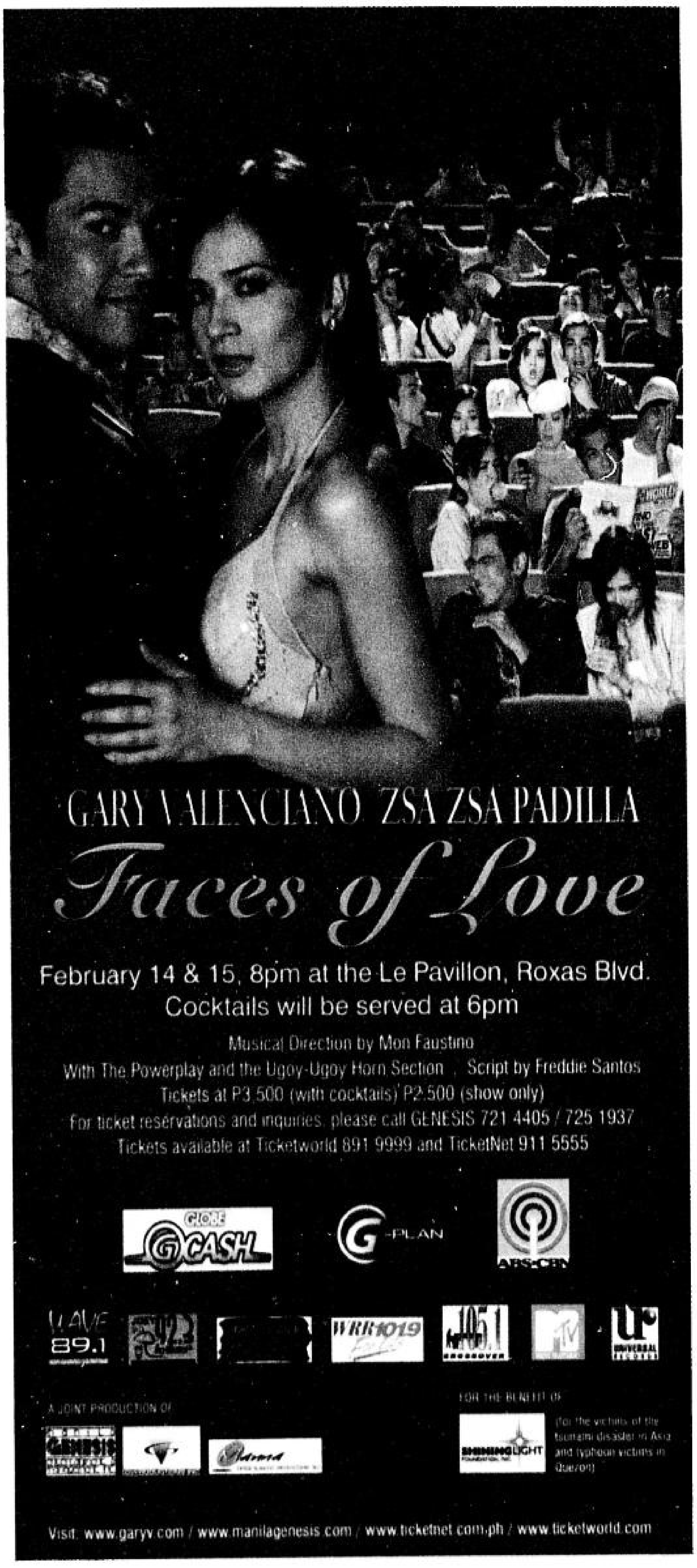

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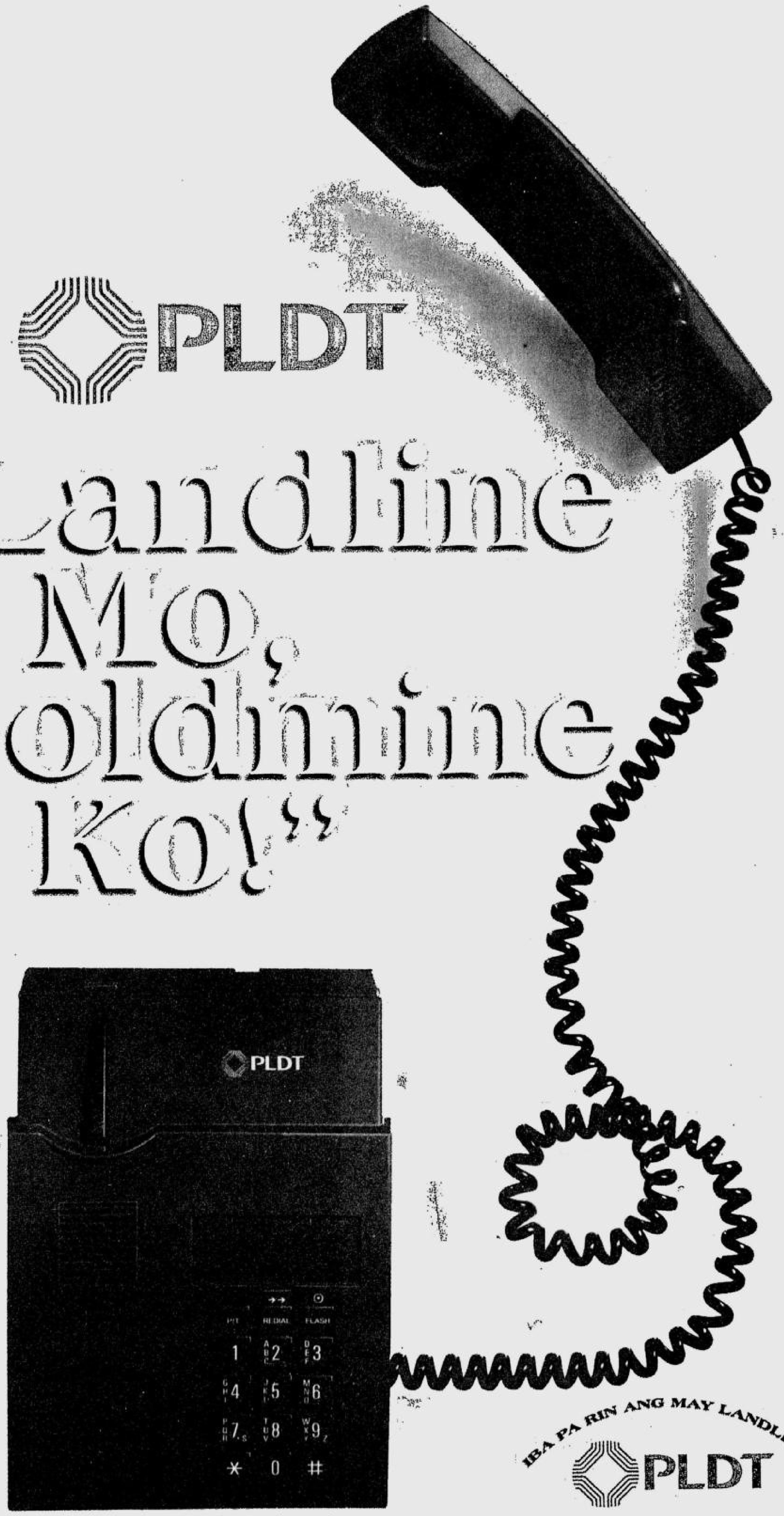

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Top 36 – 45 / Php 20,000
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Top 46 – 55 / Php 10,000
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Sunday BIZ

Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

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Of RP's woes, this should take priority

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

THE SLIGHT, slipper-clad Joseph Salvador is usually up at the crack of dawn and walks for about two hours through mud and rice fields to his school.

When the 14-year-old gets there, he shares the classroom and the meager supply of books, notebooks and pencils with 49 classmates. Sometimes more.

But Salvador does not mind.

He is inspired by the burning thought that each step he takes to spend another day in his barangay's school puts him a little bit closer to achieving his dream of earning a degree and yanking his family out of poverty.

It is a worthwhile journey that the government, private sector, non-government organizations, academe and concerned citizens alike should ensure that these children take, if the Philippines were to achieve its goal of providing universal access to primary education by 2015, in compliance with the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals.

It is a tall order. But most agree that the Philippines stands a very good chance of achieving that goal.

If there is one thing that spurs most Filipinos to action, it is the desire to provide education.

But it is getting harder for Filipinos, especially the poor, to send their children to the public schools and to make sure they stay there.

Appalling numbers

They urgently need help as the appalling numbers prove.

Out of every 10 Filipino school children enrolled every year, less than seven will graduate from grade school. Only about four will finish high school and only one will manage to earn a college degree, according to data from the Center for Asia-Pacific Studies.

Poverty is one of the main culprits behind the sad tale that is told much too often—the thief of many a child's dreams.

Roman, for example, is forced to cut classes at least once a week because he has to work in the farm with his father, to provide food on the table he shares with his five siblings.

It is only by the force of his will that his family grudgingly allows him to go to school.

Some 1.7 million Filipino children aged 7 to 12 are not so lucky.

They are out of school because their parents do not see the value in it, when they could work in the farms and fish in the seas. Or because with money barely able to feed a family of five, there is just not enough left over for the paper, pencil, snack and uniform they need for school.

And for those who do get their children to school, they are met by classrooms that leave so much to be desired.

Children in the public schools, particularly in the far flung provinces of Visayas and Mindanao, often share a desk with two to three others in an overcrowded class of up to 80 students.

Unicef data on teachers showed of the 405,973 teachers polled, 25 percent said they taught in classrooms without ceilings; 45 percent said they brought their own tables to school; 43 percent brought their own chairs to the classrooms that flood over during the rainy season.

THERE is something very wrong if school kids have to carry their own chairs to school.

TOOTS SOBERANO

More than half said their schools had no electricity and 84 percent had no running water. Only 38 percent said they had toilets.

Sometimes an entire class shares one set of textbooks. Teachers sometimes break a pencil into three so more will have something to use.

No wonder, then, that despite the increase in the number of children who went to private and public schools, from 85 percent in 1991 to 97 percent in 2001, the survival rate went down from 68.4 percent to 67.1 percent during the same period.

Action desperately needed

Here is an area where action is desperately needed:

The Department of Education said the government would need some P15.678 billion for the construction of classrooms, seats, provision of textbooks, teacher items and principal items, just to keep up with the 2.3 percent annual growth in the number of children of school age.

The DepEd estimated it would need to put up 11,205 new school buildings up to 2010 to make way for the new enrollees, which added to the backlog of 15,678 for the elementary level alone, puts the total requirement to 26,883.

Knowing that the government can not do it alone, the private sector had long pitched in to provide thousands of classrooms, even in the most remote of barangays.

But meeting the millennium goals is not just simply about addressing the problem on quantity, of just providing all barangays with classrooms, teachers, textbooks and school supplies.

Not learning

More importantly, it is about providing quality education. What is the use of getting all children to school, when they do not learn anything useful. And Filipino children apparently are not learning enough, according to a 1999 Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study.

The study showed that first year high school Filipino students ranked the third worst among 38 countries when it came to international math and science tests.

They hardly fared better in national tests. On average, students were able to answer only half of the test material given in the NEAT and NSAT.

Diagnostic tests given by the DepEd in 2002 also showed that only 40 percent of Grade 3 students and 30 percent of Grade 6 students mastered their expected learning competencies in English, Math and Science.

The disheartening results of the High School Readiness Test given in 2004 to first-year students further supported the conclusion that the public elementary education system has failed to produce graduates who learned what they should have to take the next step.

Part of the blame can be placed on the acute lack of qualified teachers, especially in the rural areas.

Teachers, research said, are the most important determinant of student achievement. But they have as much to learn themselves.

Education Secretary Florencio B. Abad said that teachers need to be retrained in the basics of Science, Mathematics and English to quickly pull up the falling test scores in these crucial subjects.

Teachers' skills likewise needed to be refreshed to cope with new technology that could be harnessed for the good of the students, and the pressure of teaching as many as 80 students at one time.

Then there is the issue of adequate compensation.

The Philippines is already losing many of its best teachers to countries like the United States, where, ironically, Filipino teachers are teaching American children how to read and write in English.

To lose on both fronts of providing enough physical infrastructure and quality education is something the Philippines cannot afford. It is not just the government's programs that would be adversely affected but the business sector's as well.

Business has a stake

It could even be argued that business even has a lot more at stake in the fight to build a well-

OF RP'S WOES/ B2

Manila Water

Sa East Zone*, tuluy-tuloy ang agos ng buhay.

'Yan ay dahil naging maagap at masipag ang Manila Water, isang Ayala company at concessionaire ng MWSS. Taong 1997 pa lang, sinimulan na ang mga hakbang upang masiguradong ang water supply ay laging sapat.

Una, naglaan ang Manila Water ng P19 bilyon para sa isang 5-year plan na mag-aayos hindi lamang ng mga sira't butas-butas na tubo ng tubig. Kasama rin dito ang pagpapalit at paglalagay ng makabagong water pipes.

At sa pag-ayos pa lang ng mga leaks, nakakaipon pa sila ng 350 million liters ng tubig per day. Katumbas ito ng dami ng tubig na ginagamit ng 350,000 pamilya sa isang araw.

Bukod dito, patuloy na naghahanap at nagde-develop ang Manila Water ng mga bagong pagkukunan ng tubig.

Kaya naman tag-ulan man o tag-araw, sa mga taga-East Zone, tuluy-tuloy ang agos ng tubig...at buhay.

* Marikina, Pasig, Mandaluyong, Makati, malaking bahagi ng Quezon City, San Andres at Sta. Ana sa Manila. Kasama rin dito ang San Juan, Taguig, Pateros, at Cainta, Taytay, Antipolo, San Mateo at Montalban sa Rizal.

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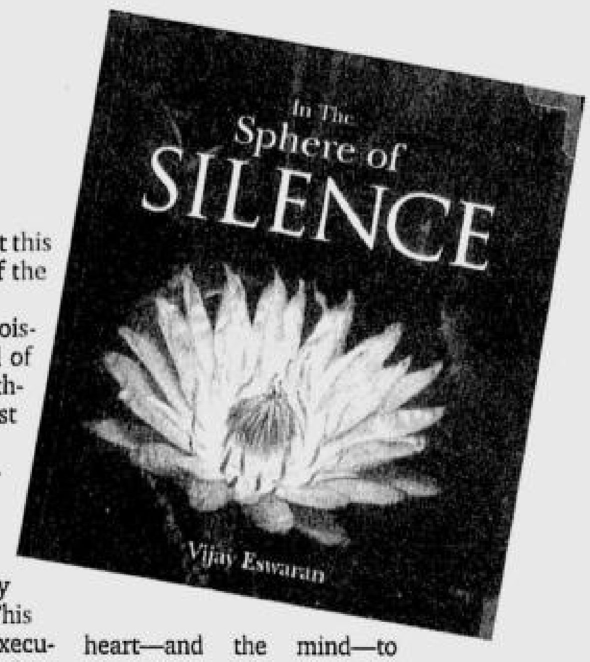
Have some quiet and know what really matters in life

By Dante M. Velasco
Contributor

"In the Sphere of Silence"
by Vijay Eswaran
RYHM Publishing House, HK, 2004



WE BEGIN the New Year with a bang, but this book wants us to begin each new day of the year, not with a bang, but in silence.

Is this one of those books meant for cloistered life, or one that nurtures the soul of the recluse? No, it is written for CEOs, other executives and consultants in the midst of a dizzying workaday life.

Is this one of those contemplative or escapist books addressed to those who want to get away permanently from the workaday world, run to the sanctuary of the monastery—and, yes, miles away from the arena where the action is? No. This book is, in fact, written by a top global executive presiding over a conglomerate that is into large-scale online marketing, aggressive distribution, unrelenting innovation and strategic entry into new businesses.

"The sphere of silence," says author Vijay Eswaran, "is a rest for the tongue, the single most worked-out organ in the whole body." The Scriptures call this "taming the tongue." Mother Teresa, quoted in the book, says: "In the silence of the heart, God speaks."

Actually, the book recommends to managers and other people with bias for action to begin the day with a one-hour quiet time. From such self-driven quiet, one reaps a harvest of blessings coming from knowing what really matters in life. A time for quietude opens the heart—and the mind—to what is essential.

EXECUTIVE READ

That brings to mind another slim book—now a classic—"The Little Prince," where one quote has become unforgettable: "What is essential is invisible to the eye."

Herein lies the reason why this book by Eswaran is a real find. It brings us back to what is truly fundamental (not in a political or religious sense)—or essential. In a world of too many words—and thus noise—a book comes like a whiff of fresh wind.

In this nicely designed book—less rhetoric, elegant interplay of fonts and white space—the form truly captures the substance. The author's sayings are pithy, and have a ring of the elemental to them. Perhaps, that really

HAVE SOME/ B3

Of RP's woes . . .

From page B1

educated population.

The United Nations stressed that a well-educated and skilled workforce is one of the most important factors in ensuring national and corporate competitiveness in an information-based global economy.

The young students that go through school today represent not only the future buyers of companies' products and services, but also the future employees and leaders.

Investment in education, thus, makes sound good business sense, especially over the long-term.

The Philippines needs to make up for lost time, as other countries, such as Vietnam, Malaysia and Thailand have already overtaken the Philippines in the number of students going through school.

Investing lease in education

A report by the Unesco Institute for Statistics also showed that the Philippines is one of the countries in Asia that invest the least in education.

The report, based on official 2000 and 2001 education figures from 22 countries in South and East Asia, showed only 3.5 percent of the Philippines' Gross Domestic Product was spent on education, compared to 6.2 percent for Malaysia and 5.4 percent for Thailand.

Unesco said in the report that a government's investment in education "is one indication of the relative importance that a government places on education, the funding priority that it gives to each level of education and the identification of potential needs for additional resources in order to further develop the education system."

A separate Education for All 2000 report showed that the Philippines spends about P5,500 per pupil in the elementary and high school level, 1/6 of what Thailand spends for education and about 1/10 that of Singapore.

The Philippines' investment is way below the world average of about P40,000 per student and just a shade of the P200,000 per student that the US spends per student.

The challenges are certainly daunting, but substantial gains are already being made.

The government and the private sector, for instance, have joined hands in the Adopt-A-School Program where private firms became partners in education by helping develop the curriculum and teachers' skills, providing textbooks and other instructional materials and constructing or upgrading the school facilities.

Other private firms, on the other hand, have decided to concentrate on specific aspects of the education reform. These include teacher training, school construction and even feeding programs to address malnutrition.

These combined efforts are certainly doing the students a favor.

All that is needed is that final push of commitment and resources to achieve the goals in the field of education.

We don't exactly have a choice.

For when we help uplift the state of public school education, we are not just investing in the future of children like Roman, who battle the odds just to get that education they so richly deserve.

We are also investing in our country's. And our own.

VICTORIAS
MILLING COMPANY, INC.

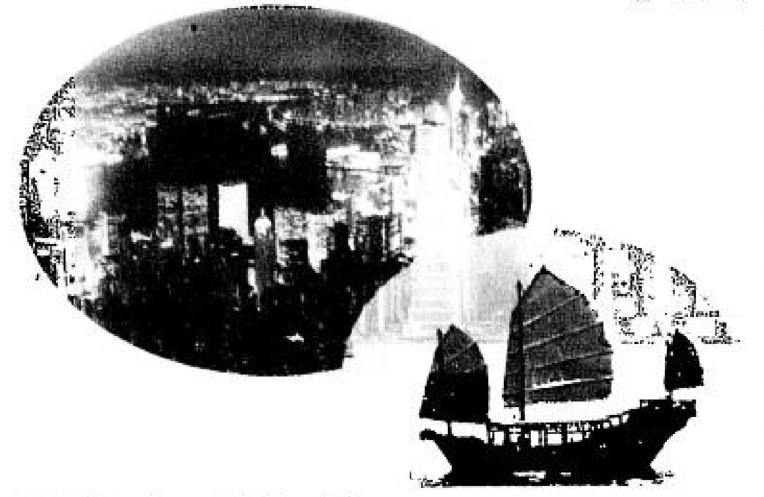
NOTICE
OF POSTPONEMENT OF ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING

To all Stockholders:

Notice is hereby given that the **Annual Stockholders' Meeting** of **Victorias Milling Company, Inc.** scheduled on **1 February 2005**, pursuant to the corporation's By-Laws, has been postponed by the **Board of Directors** to **1 March 2005, at 9:00 in the morning.**

Formal notice and agenda for the meeting shall be published later.

(Sgd.) SANTIAGO T. GABIONZA, JR.
Corporate Secretary



GUESS the price and win free trips

If ‘the price is right,’ you win at Shopwise

WINNING lots of merchandise by knowing how much they cost sounds too easy, especially if you're one of those shoppers who memorizes the price of items you want to buy. Yet, the longest running game show in television history capitalized on this simple concept to dominate the airwaves in the US since 1956. Price is Right has permanently etched the phrase, “Come on Down!” into the collective psyche of those who grew up in the 80's.

Inspired by this popular game show, Shopwise Supercenters brings its customers another promotional concept. The “You can win If the Price is Right at Shopwise” features weekly pricing games, which allows customers to win exciting showcases by correctly guessing their actual retail price.

“Knowing the prices of merchandise is a natural propensity of our customers. Our shoppers are aware of prices of both basic and discretionary products; they have a keen sense of value, and they tend to shop around for the best deals in town. Now they can put their shopping savvy to good use and win exciting prices in the process in our ‘You can win If the Price is Right’ promotion,” says Crickette Tantoco, vice president for Marketing and Merchandising of Shopwise.

Promo mechanics

Want to put your smart shopping skills to good use? All it takes is a purchase worth P400 at Shopwise plus P100 worth of participating products. Every P400 purchase entitles you to a You can win If the Price is Right stub. You need only to fill up the information required in the stub, take your most educated guess at the estimated price of the showcase, and drop in the drop box that corresponds to the price range of the featured showcase.

The customer whose guess is closest to (but does not exceed) the actual retail price of the showcase will be declared the winner, and will get to take home the featured showcase of the week. In addition, one player will be selected every week to compete in the final pricing game, which will be held on March 13, 2005 in all stores.

Prizes

“We are featuring five major showcases that cater to our customers' varied lifestyles. These showcases include the Great Outdoors, Baby Talk, It's a Man's World, Sweet Dreams, Homewise and the Travel showcase,” said Ethel Villanor, Shopwise AVP for Marketing.

The “You can win if the Price is Right” promotion runs in all Shopwise branches in Alabang, Makati, Libis and Araneta Center from Jan. 21 to March 13, 2005.

Have some quiet ...

From page B2

happens when you have an hour of silence each day. Consider this powerful metaphor:

“Thought, word, deed. The thought is the arrow; the word which carries your thoughts, the bow; the action which releases the arrow, the pull of the string.” The syntax captures the measured cadence of a guru speaking—where pauses and silences are part of the message.

It's true that when you shut out the world—turn off the radio, switch off the ubiquitous TV, ask the housemaid to keep quiet for a change, and then close the door—there are only two beings left to deal with in silence: yourself and the Divine. Then, it's reflection time.

“Know thyself,” says the Greek philosopher. Eswaran is more contemporary with this pithy sentence: “Take your life back. Dedicate one hour out of 24 and you get 23 back in your control.” Spoken like an executive—with a difference. He has the gift of brevity and clarity.'

The handy book, running into 120 pages, is an easy read. The author's sayings, edited and transcribed by Gemma Luz Corotan, deals with practical issues like anger, war, learning, courage, doing your job, and a host of other daily concerns. And yet he speaks of them in their simplest forms whence come principles.

As they say, when you teach principles, your students will take care of the techniques. It begins with the principle of silence, and from such center of quiet will emerge the power of focus, clarity and, yes, wisdom. Many leaders of whatever creed and persuasion, when led to silence, came upon a central truth that first changed their lives—and then transformed a nation.

Of late, books have come into the scene and continue to change or enrich lives. The bestseller, “Purpose-Driven Life,” has crossed religious boundaries to be a handy practical guide to people.

This book—which draws wisdom from the wellspring of a variety of philosophical and religious thought—may yet quench the thirst for something that touches the heart, or the desire for essential principles that make sense or create order in this topsy-turvy world. For that alone, this book deserves to be at your bedside at night, or at your desk by day. *(dantemvelasco@yahoo.com)*

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People, Events & Products

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Editor **Aries Espinosa**

Sinulog Festival at SM City Cebu

SM CITY Cebu joins in the celebration of the 25th anniversary of the Sinulog Festival, the Queen City of the South's most popular fete, with music, dance and street parties.

The Sinulog Festival, which is celebrated on the third Sunday of January, traces its roots to the Cebuano's deep devotion to the Christ Child or Sto. Niño. Named after "sinulog", a dance with two steps forward and one step backward to the sound of the drums, historians say that this is the link between the country's pagan past and Christian present.

DANCERS with tambo headresses pay tribute to the Sto. Niño.

With the festival's dance tradition in mind, SM City Cebu will have dance performances by different universities and dance groups at the mall every Sunday for the month of January. Likewise, Sayaw Sinulog, a modernized version of the sinulog dance by dance groups from the city was held at the Entertainment Plaza on Jan. 14. Top entertainers Pops Fernandez and Ogie Alcasid will also join in the celebrations with mini concerts at the SM City Cebu Entertainment Plaza on Jan. 15 and 16, respectively. The festivities was capped with a Street Party at the Fiesta Strip on Jan. 15 at 7 p.m. Sponsored by San Miguel Beer, it featured Carlo Aquino with Barbie's Cradle.

Legend has it that when Magellan landed in Cebu in 1521, the natives already danced the "sinulog" in honor of their wooden idols and anitos. With the Spaniards conquering by the Cross as well as the sword, Magellan gave the Santo Niño as the baptismal gift to Hara Amihan, wife of Cebu's Rajah Humabon, who was later named Queen Juana.

Until Christianity was formalized 44 years later with the arrival of Miguel Lopez de Lagaspi, natives would dance the sinulog in front of wooden idols or the Santo Niño. Since then, it became a Christian event as children dressed in Moro-Moro costumes would dance the "sinulog" during the feast of the Santo Niño.

In 1980, David Odilao Jr., then the regional director of the Ministry of Sports and Development, organized the first ever Sinulog Parade, visualizing a festival that would rival all others being held at this time of the year.

The following year, many sectors of the Cebuano community got together to organize a bigger festival, which consisted of a parade depicting the "sinulog" history, a parade of floats, and street dancers in costume. Starting at the morning Cebu Provincial Capitol and ending about midnight at the Fort San Pedro - Plaza Independencia area, it became the spectacular celebration that it is today.

RHMC'S KALINGA LUZON PROJECT GETS BOOST

Ronald McDonald House Charities (RHMC) representative Zonito Torrevillas is seen receiving from Philippine National Construction Corp (PNCC)-Skyway president and CEO Wilfredo Cu proceeds of the Kalinga Luzon fund drive during a symbolic turnover ceremony held at the PNCC-Skyway office in Bicutan. A total of P65,000 were collected from the RHMC boxes from Dec. 27 to Jan. 10. The proceeds represents donations from motorists who dropped cash in the RHMC boxes that have been placed at the South Luzon toll centers. The amount collected is equivalent to one RHMC-Gawd Kalinga house. Witnessing the turnover were (from left): PNCC-Skyway consultant Romulo Coronado, Gawad Kalinga executive director Tony Meloto and McDonald's chief happiness officer Ronald McDonald.

BAKERY FAIR
2005
FCBG

NEW HONG LEE JOINS 3RD INTERNATIONAL BAKERY FAIR

New Hong Lee recently signed in with the Filipino Chinese Bakery Association Inc, for the forthcoming 3rd International Bakery Fair slated on Feb. 18 to 20 at World Trade Center. Shown are (standing, from left): FCBAI director and committee chair for Bakery Fair 2005 Henry Ah; FCBAI corporate secretary Marcos Ong Jr.; FCBAI vice president James Chua; FCBAI vice president Leonardo Ong; (seated, from left) FCBAI director Gerie Chua, New Hong Lee manager Bobby Co; FCBAI president Ching Suy Eh and FCBAI treasurer Benito Ong.

OGIE ALCASID, CAFÉ LUPE INK CONTRACT

Singer-composer Ogie Alcasid and Café Lupe CEO Alvin Carranza sign a contract in connection with the singer's bar tour entitled 'I am a Singer' on March 11. Also in photo are Leo Dominguez (Premier Inc business manager) and Emilie Cruz (Café Lupe EVP). For reservations call 890-3319/896-3166.

ASIACO AT JAPAN'S BIGGEST TRADE SHOW

Asiaco Enterprises International Corp, the pioneer in kitchen wire baskets and the leader in kitchen and closet organizers, recently participated at the Japan Home Show 2004, the largest trade show for the housing and building materials industry in Japan. Held at the Tokyo Big Sight, Japan, the company displayed its best-sellers such as the stackable organizers, stainless steel pullout wire baskets, closet accessories, aluminum and stainless steel modular cabinets, and wall-mounted kitchen accessories. The event was attended by over one hundred thousand visitors, including Japan's product manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers. Asiaco was selected, along with other two Philippine companies, by the Asean-Japan Centre (AJC), an international organization that promotes trade and investment between Japan and Asean countries. Recently, Asiaco received the International Quality Crown Award under the gold category in England and the Most Innovative Product Award during the Designbuild 2004 in Australia. The company offers free technical advice through their hotline number 744-1556 or text at 0920-9100936.

Product FILES

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Big bikes at 0% interest

SCOOTER and motorcycles fanatics can now enjoy 0 percent interest for 3,6, 9 and 12 months when they use their credit cards to purchase 50 cc scooters, 110 cc mopeds, 150 cc scooters, 150 cc motorcycles at 150 cc big bikes and Manila Imperial Motor Sales. BPI, Bankard, JCB My Dream, Metrobank, PS Bank, Unionbank and Standard Chartered cardholders can enjoy these motorcycles for 0 percent also at 18 months. Visit them at their exhibit at Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall Exhibit from Jan. 16 to Feb. 28, and at the Glorietta Activity Center from Jan. 10 to 25. Their head Office is located at 527 Ilang-Ilang St., Binondo, Manila. Tel. nos. 242-2795, 242-2761 and 242-2764.

Adrian's Christening

WELCOME to the Christian world Adrian Rhey Guerrero. Proud parents Joseph Rey Guerrero and Susan Kehyeng-Guerrero will have Adrian Christened today, 9:30 a.m. at San Lorenzo Ruiz Parish Church, Binondo, Manila. Reception will follow at Cabalen Glorietta, Makati City.

AFC FERTILIZER AND CHEMIC
IW AT BU NG MA AWA
MBER

AFCI, IBM SIGN CBA ADDENDUM

AFC Fertilizer and Chemicals Inc (AFCI) and Ilaw Buklod ng Manggagawa (IBM) recently signed its CBA addendum coinciding with its corporate Christmas party held last Dec. 8. Shown are (from left): Yasuyuki Ogawa, executive vice president-treasurer, raw materials procurement; Raymund Ilustre, president; and Nestor Mahinog, IBM president.

GLOBOTEL OPENS AT MARKET! MARKET!

Globotel, a Samsung Privilege Partner opened its second cellphone store at Market! Market! in Fort Bonifacio. To show Samsung's full support, Annaise Fragante, head for Samsung Mobile and Kenny Khoo country manager of First Asia Mobile (Samsung Mobile distributor) cut the ribbon with Globotel's Gerry Roxas. Globotel will carry a wide array of Samsung mobile including the latest cellphone models.

Lawasia Forum slated

AUSTRALIAN Ambassador Ruth Pearce will be the keynote speaker at the forthcoming Lawasia Forum on "Recent Legal Developments in the Asia Pacific Region". She will be introduced by Ambassador Raul I. Goco, chair, Lawasia Philippines. The affair will be held on Friday, Jan. 21 at the 4th Floor of the IBP Multi-Purpose Hall, on Julia Vargas Avenue.

The speakers are foreign legal experts from Queensland, Australia, Hongkong SAR and Singapore. Lawyers Section Scott Falvey Esq., will talk on "Posthumous Sperm Donation-From the Grave to the Cradle"- a unique research into legal areas in biogenetics, specifically genetic testing, sperm donation, ova harvesting, sperm harvesting post mortem. He will also give a running commentary on the US, UK and Australian position on the matter; Lester Huang, Esq., vice president of Lawasia and the Law Society of Hongkong, will talk on "Money Laundering Issues for Lawyers"; Glenn Wayne Ferguson, Esq., the president of Queensland Law Society, will talk on "Recent Developments in the Trade Law and the World Trade Organization (WTO) - including Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Mechanism and Free Trade Agreements; Malathi Das, Esq., of Singapore, will talk on the "Recent Developments in Singapore on Intellectual Property Law".

The following Philippine legal experts have been invited as reactors: Unilab senior vice president Jose Ma. Ochave on biotechnology; PNB executive vice-president and former national president of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP) and Lawasia president (1999-2001) Mervyn G. Encanto on money laundering; UP professor Ma. Lourdes Aranal - Sereno on trade law and the WTO; and Quasha Law Office partner Alonzo Ancheta on intellectual property law. lawyers Edgar E. Tarriela, managing partner of Tarriela Tagao Ona, Carlos Medina of the Ateneo Law school and Diana Franco of Lawasia will serve as moderators.

The Lawasia Forum is open to all lawyers, judges, law students, gynecologists and obstetricians, bankers and other interested parties who wish to participate. Fee is P2,500 for the forum which starts at 8:30 a.m. up to 4:30 p.m. It includes lunch and coffee breaks. Lawyers can earn six (6) MCLE units.

Interested parties may contact the Viillaraza and Angangco Law Office c/o lawyers Jill Marie B. Lopez or Rosa Michele Bagtas to register: tel. nos. 818-9839; 818-9880; 815-9550; 816-7056; or fax no. 816-0757; 817-1324; 894-4729.

NDD na titigil ang kwentuhan

NDD na magmamadali magsalita

NDD na mahuhuli sa balita

NDD na magdadagdag ng P 200

NDD ka na mag susubscribe sa iba

NDD ka na magbabayad

Tuloy na tuloy na!

Globelines to Globelines calls
anywhere in the country are free starting January 17, 2005

Globelines

Globelines Postpaid subscribers will no longer be charged National Direct Dialing charges for calls made
from their Globelines Postpaid phones to any other Globelines phone nationwide.
This will not apply to payphone and Globelines Prepaid. For inquiries and subscription
call our Customer Care Hotline at (02) 919-8888 in Luzon or (032) 410-8888 in Visayas & Mindanao
or visit our Globelines Payments and Services Centers listed below.

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Project Liaison Officer

Job Code : PLO

He shall be responsible for over-all coordination with the client from proposal to contract stages and ensure the smooth and timely delivery of project submittals. He shall take charge of all communications, documentations of meetings, other administrative concerns with the client and maintain client relationship. He shall be responsible to conduct client visits and deliver company presentations.

Qualifications
- Male or female, 26-35 years old
- College degree in Architecture, Professional registration required
- Experience in Design and Interior Architecture
- At least 5 years experience, International exposure an advantage
- Willing to be assigned in Dubai, UAE
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills required
- Has the ability to deliver company presentations
- Experience with sales and marketing is preferred

Facilities Manager

Job Code : FMA

He shall be responsible for over-all management of the maintenance of the facility including electrical & mechanical system, IT infrastructure , janitorial, safety and security and the like.

Qualifications:
- 3 years work experience in building administration required
- Degree in Mechanical or Electrical Engineering required
- Professional registration required
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills required

Client Services Officer

Job Code : CSG-1

He shall be responsible to perform duties in the areas of business development, client maintenance, market research, and public relations. He shall be responsible to deliver company presentations, develop client accounts, and identify client project requirements.

Qualifications
- Male or female, 26-33 years old
- College degree in Business Administration, Communication Arts
- At least 5 years experience in sales and marketing is required, experience handling corporate accounts is an advantage
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills required
- Has the ability to deliver company presentations, very articulate
- Interest in design and architecture an advantage

Client Services Assistant

Job Code : CSG-2

He shall be responsible to perform support services in the areas of business development, client maintenance, market research, and public relations. He shall be responsible for coordinating client services activities. He shall be involved in the development of client accounts, identify client project requirements, and in conducting client visits.

Qualifications
- Male or female, 23-27 years old
- College degree in Business Admnistration, Communication Arts
- At least 3 years experience in sales and marketing work is required, experience handling corporate accounts is an advantage
- Knowledge in preparation of marketing collaterals and other marketing administration activities.
- Very articulate, excellent written and verbal communication skills required
- Ability to deliver company presentations is an advantage
- Interest in design and architecture an advantage

Assistant Systems Administrator

Job Code: QIS-ASA

Responsible for ensuring the continuous operation and integrity of the Windows network environment, including servers, workstations and the network infrastructure, including regular preventive maintenance, troubleshooting, problem solving and security.

Qualifications
- 1 to 3 years experience in administering and supporting Windows network environment, preferably with experience windows Server 2003
- Experience with setting up and administering security infrastructure, including firewalls and anti-virus.
- Strong understanding of networking fundamentals and security concepts

Database Developer

Job Code: QIS-DBD

Responsible for developing and maintaining internal database and intranet applications.

Qualifications
- 1 to 3 years experience in developing web-based database applications on Java and/or .NET
- Strong hands-on experience with MySQL database environment and application development
- Familiarity with Visual Basic and MS Access preferred

Interested parties may submit their comprehensive resume not later than January 21, 2005

The Environments Collaborative

27F Philamlife Tower
8767 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City
Trunk +632 885 0808
Fax +632 728 0808
Email: jobs@environments.com.ph

UPLIFT Philippines Inc. *Urban Program for Livelihood Finance and Training*

UPLIFT is a microfinance NGO that was started 11 years ago by a French Organization. Every year, we provide 20,000 Loans and Savings products to poor households of the depressed areas of Metro Manila.

We are currently looking for highly qualified persons to join our dynamic team.

1 Area Manager (AM)

1 - In-charge of Planning and Strategizing for operations of the microfinance program providing loans, savings and training to urban poor of Quezon City.
2 - Ensure that all members of his/her team are properly monitored, trained and managed to implement the strategy and methodology of the organization.
3 - Participate in the Management Committee of his/her unit, and in most of the key decision-making.
4 - Ensure good relation with other program heads, and to the central UPLIFT management for proper implementation of micro finance method.
5 - Define objectives, monitor results, and identify appropriate resources needed to reach them.
6 - Report directly to the Managing Director.
7 - Prepare monthly report on performance parameters with necessary analysis.

Position Profile

1 - College graduate with strong background in microfinance.
2 - Exceptional Analytical skills
3 - Ability to work and handle relationship with foreigners
4 - Autonomous, dynamic, flexible, ready for challenges in a complex environment.
5 - Committed to work for an NGO and provide services to the poorest families.
6 - Exceptional verbal and written English
7 - Well versed in preparation and presentation of operational reports.

1 Internal Audit Manager (IAM)

1 - Plan and set the overall direction and the process of implementation of the internal audit program
2 - Ensure that all members of his/her team are properly monitored, trained and managed to implement the strategy and methodology of the organization.
3 - Participate in the Management Committee of the organization, and in most of the key decision-making.
4 - Ensure good relation with other program heads, and to the central UPLIFT management for proper implementation of micro finance method.
5 - Define objectives, and identify appropriate resources needed to reach them.
6 - Report directly to the Managing Director.

Position Profile

1 - A CPA, preferably with 5 years experience in micro enterprise
2 - Autonomous, dynamic, flexible, ready for challenges in a complex environment.
3 - Computer literate, preferably with experience in audit of information systems
4 - Exceptional Analytical skills
5 - Ability to work and handle relationship with foreigners
6 - Exceptional verbal and written English
7 - Well versed in preparation and presentation of audit reports.
8 - Committed to work for an NGO and provide services to the poorest families.

2 Internal Auditors (IA) for Manila-Caloocan

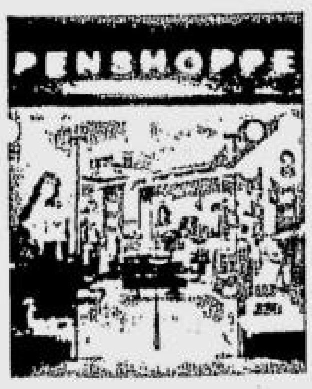
1 - Ensure compliance of everyone to an efficient internal audit control procedures
2 - Ensure effectiveness in evaluating overall audit results, weighing the relevancy, accuracy, and perspective of conclusions against the audit evidence of the whole organization.

Position Profile

1 - Preferably a CPA with 3 years experience in micro enterprise
2 - Autonomous, dynamic, flexible, ready for challenge in a complex environment.
3 - Computer literate, preferably with experience in audit of information systems
4 - Proficiency in oral and written English
5 - Committed to work for an NGO and provide services to the poorest families.
6 - Willing to do field work.
7 - Competence in report writing.

If you meet the above requirements, please send your resume and application letter to:

rj.lescano@uplift.org.ph
or to: 3rd Flr., APN Bldg.,
172 A. Mabini St., Maypajo, Caloocan City



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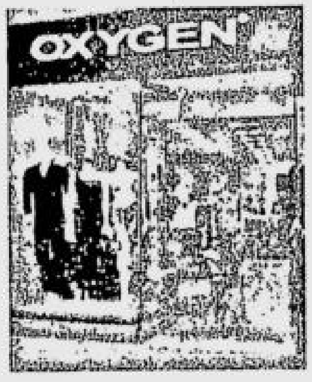

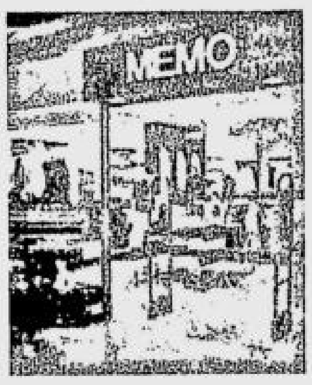

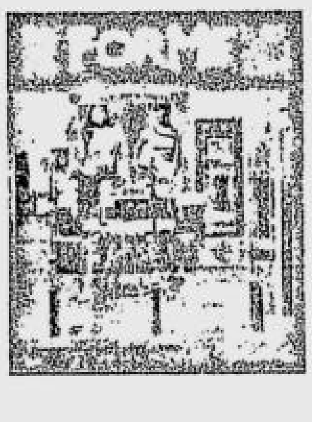

GOLDEN ABC, INC.

Join the fun and dynamism of the team behind Penshoppe, Oxygen, Memo and ForMe. If you have what it takes, join us.

PRODUCT MANAGERS: PM

Assists the Merchandise Manager in his/her sourcing functions by the efficient implementation of merchandise strategies and product mix, interpreting fashion trends suitable to the target market.

- Graduates of Marketing, Business Management, Economics or any Retail Merchandising course
- Experience in garment merchandising and retailing in department store/boutique specialty setting
- Excellent analytical and communication skills
- Organized and highly adaptable to fast-paced environment and multiple projects
- Extensive network-base of foreign and local supplier is a plus
- Job requires frequent travel

FASHION/GRAPHIC DESIGNERS: DSN

Responsible for the conceptualization and design of various merchandise. He/She aims to develop thorough knowledge of the market, and keeps abreast with fashion trends.

- Graduates of Advertising, Industrial Design, Fashion Design, Clothing Technology, and other design-related courses
- Must be friendly and personable
- Must have a strong fashion sense and familiarity with colors and fabrics
- Highly creative, inspired and ingenious with an extensive know-how of the latest trends
- Adept with design software
- Able to work independently while handling multiple projects

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT OFFICER: FMO

Responsible for seeing through the proper condition and maintenance of the building and its equipments which include electrical and safety; security; stockroom safekeeping.

- Graduates of BS Electrical Engineering or BS Mechanical Engineering
- Passed the board exam and has valid professional license
- At least 3 years of actual experience in building maintenance
- Male, between 30 to 35 years old
- Can work with minimum supervision and willing to render long hours of work
- Computer literate (knowledge of Auto-CAD is a plus)
- Knowledgeable in fire prevention, safety practices, preventive maintenance, and construction plans
- Good people-handling skills and can relate well with colleagues

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIES: ES

Responsible for daily administrative support to the Executives. The position requires setting up appointments and meetings, which involves coordination with various institutions. She will assist in the preparation of business proposals/ reports/ contracts.

- Graduates of Nursing, Computer Science, Information Technology, Business courses
- 3 years related experience in high-level office
- Female, between 24 to 35 years old
- Highly personable with excellent oral and written communication skills
- Excellent on basic office procedures and with good initiative
- Ability to work in a fast-paced, dynamic and creative environment
- Ability to work independently
- Trustworthy, responsible, and detail oriented

STORE SALES MANAGERS: SSM

(For Sucat Parañaque, Caloocan, Alabang, Laguna, Vigan, Dasmariñas Cavite, Bukidnon, Ormoc, Mactan Cebu, Davao)

Responsible for the over-all sales supervision of the store. Entry-level functional supervisor to be trained in the skillful use of multiple management functions and its application.

- Graduates of Management, Marketing, Economics or any related courses
- Male or Female, between 23 to 30 years old
- Minimum of 1 year supervisory experience preferably in retail and marketing consumer products
- Excellent communication, interpersonal, relationship-building and conflict-resolution skills
- Proven skills in managing and developing people
- Strong organizational, communication and time management skills

TRAINING SPECIALIST: TS

Responsible for the training needs analyses and assessments for the Sales Division. The position requires implementation and facilitation of technical, operational and/or specialty training events and program; consultation and collaboration with individuals and departments on complex training issues; assessment of training needs and objectives and designing and developing responsive training programs and initiatives; design and development of comprehensive training plans, curriculum and aids.

- Graduate of HRM or any business related courses
- Male or Female, 23-28 years old
- At least 2 years experience in sales and retail training
- Knowledge and understanding of adult learning principles and a wide range of training methods, techniques and formats
- Teaching and facilitation skills
- Advanced verbal and written communication skills
- Ability to interpret and assess training and development needs and to develop appropriate and creative responses
- Ability to design, develop, implement and evaluate training plans, curricula and methodology

QUALITY CONTROL INSPECTOR: QCI

Do quality inspection on products such as garments, innerwear, personal care and accessories and make sure that QC standards are implemented.

- Monitor and keep track on daily inventory of damaged items inside the warehouse
- Not more than 30 years old
- Male or female, preferably single
- College graduate
- Preferably with background on garments and cosmetics

ELECTRICIAN: ELC

Responsible for the installation of electrical projects and the maintenance of electrical devices and other equipments. Secondary duty is to attend to any electrical related installations and problems in the boutiques and department store outlets.

- Male, 21 - 30 years old
- Practical Electricity or Electrical Technology graduate
- Familiar with the electrical component of generators, transformers, air conditioning unit and neon lights
- Knowledgeable in Motor Control Circuit
- At least 3-years experience in actual electrical installations in buildings
- Willing to render overtime
- Dependable and can work with minimum supervision

Qualified candidates may send resumes with 2x2 colored picture before January 28, 2005 to any of the addresses below:

HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
POSITION CODE: ______
1155 EDSA Balintawak, Quezon City
Tel. No. 366-7151 Loc. 109
Or thru:
hrd@penshoppe.com
hrd@oxygentm.com

(Application letter and resume should be in Msword format with embedded 2x2 ID picture)
PREVIOUS APPLICANTS NEED NOT APPLY

WE ARE LOOKING FOR HARDWORKING EMPLOYEES DETERMINED TO EXCEL

SALES REPRESENTATIVE
- Male or female with pleasing personality
- With at least 1 year experience in selling bldg. materials & construction products
- Possesses excellent communication skills

MARKETING OFFICER
- Able to handle promotions, presentations, advertising and event management
- Computer literate
- Organized, with pleasing personality and has excellent communication skills

ESTIMATOR
- BS Civil Engineering graduate
- Skill in AUTOCAD operation is advantage

AUTOCAD OPERATOR
- BS Architecture graduate
- Proficient in AUTOCAD
- Knowledge in estimating is an advantage.

SECRETARY
- Graduate of computer or secretarial course
- Has excellent communication skills and can work well under pressure

Interested parties may send their resume on or before Saturday, January 29 at #1 Ligaya St. cor. A. Bonifacio Balintawak, QC or E-mail it to hrm@lecsteel.com.ph

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IMMEDIATE HIRING
FOR MULTINATIONAL COMPANIES

MECHANICAL ENGINEERS
- Male, License not required
- Fresh grad or with experience in production

SALES
- With experience in food bus. (fast food or restaurant)
- Preferably college level of HRM or Food Tech
- Male or Female, 5'2" in height
- With computer skills
- With cooking skills or knowledge

FASHION CONSULTANTS
- Female, 5'3" in height
- Fair and slim with pleasing personality

Apply personally at:
3F Sentro Kapitolyo Bldg., 59 West Capitol Drive,
Barrio Kapitolyo, Pasig City
Tel. No. 747-2222.Bring bio-data.

INQUIRER PUBLICATIONS, INC.
BANDERA / CEBU DAILY NEWS / TUMBOK

Which publishes Cebu Daily News has a vacancy for a

Senior Editor

- Five years editing experience in a news organization
- Above-average command of written English
- Supervisory and leadership skills
- High sense of public service
- Strong competitive drive
- Works well under pressure of daily deadlines
- College graduate
- Cebu resident

Copy Editor

- At least 3 years editing experience in a news organization
- Above-average command of written English
- A love for the written word and an appetite for current events and news
- High initiative and an analytical mind
- Works well under pressure of daily deadlines
- Computer skills: MS Word and new programs to be taught
- College graduate and Cebu resident
- Campus journalism experience is an advantage

Please send an application letter, resume and references to

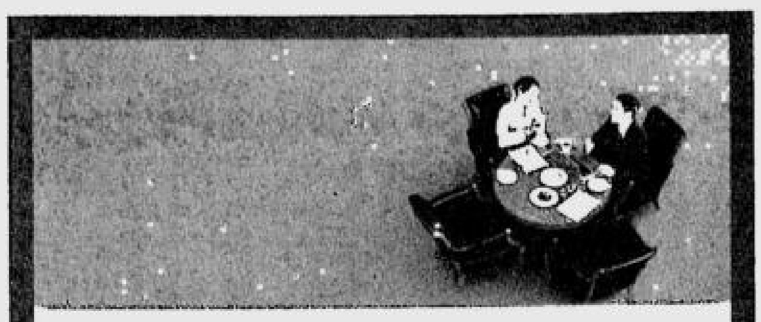
Editorial Director
Cebu Daily News
18-15 Escario Street, Cebu City

Email: search@inquirerpublications.ph
fcanoy@fcp.ph/allumin@fcp.ph/aoasan@fcp.ph

Where you find the best.

Read it every Sunday
with the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

JOB *Market*



Can You Make It Happen?

Whether it's a group or one on one...
for business or pleasure... a Crowne Plaza is
the ideal place to meet... smart, contemporary
styling... friendly efficient service...

And that's where you come in.
The Crowne Plaza Galleria Manila wants to hire:

Front Office

Front Office Manager • Assistant Managers • Front Desk Supervisors • Concierge • Guest Sevices Officers

Sales and Marketing

Sales (Account) Manager • Meetings (Account) Manager - preferably Chinese Speaking • Business Development Manager

Finance

Finance Manager • General Cashier • Finance Assistant • Receiving Staff

Engineering

Operations Engineer • Shift Engineer • Electrician • Plant Attendant/Mechanic • STP Operator • Plumber • AV Technician • Telephone Technician • Painter • Carpenter • Laundry & Kitchen Mechanic • Mason

Food and Beverage

F&B Promotions Manager • Restaurant Manager • Captain Waiter • Executive Assistant • Receptionist • Waiters

Kitchen

Sous Chef • Pastry Chef • Chef Gardemanger • Chief Butcher • Assistant Pastry Chef • Chef de Partie • Cafeteria Supervisor •Baker • Pastryman • Butcher • Kitchen Artist • Commis I • Kitchen Attendant

Public Relations & Marketing Communications

Marketing Communications Officer • Graphic Artist

Reservations

Reservations Manager • Reservations Officers

Housekeeping

Assistant Executive Housekeeper

Human Resources

Executive & HR Assistant / Trainer

Protective Services

Chief of Security

Come and see us in your best business attire!

Human Resources Office, Lower Basement
Holiday Inn Galleria Manila (pre-opening office)
One ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City

Tuesdays through Fridays
10:00AM - 5:00PM

THEN LET'S MEET!

CROWNE PLAZA
GALLERIA MANILA
THE PLACE TO MEET.

tel. (63-2) 633-7222

FILVENTURE INDUSTRIES CORPORATION

Looking for

TRADE RETAIL SALES REPRESENTATIVES

Qualifications:

- New Graduates Preferred
- 20-25 years old
- willing to do field work
- can work under pressure
- female
- aggressive
- pleasing personality and service oriented

Please send or drop your resumés at #18 Kamuning Road, Unit 2-E K-Plaza Building, Quezon City.

I'mPULSE-The First Asia Europe Music Camp in Makiling

THIRTY young musicians from Asia and Europe will attend the I'mPULSE-The First Asia Europe Music Camp to be held on Feb. 2 to 8 at the National Arts Center, Makiling Laguna. The I'mPULSE-The First Asia Europe Music Camp will provide the participants with a unique creative experience of sharing and learning from their fellow musicians from Asia and Europe. The participating artists will interact and collaborate by playing original music compositions by fellow musicians from China, Indonesia, The Netherlands, Philippines, Singapore, Portugal and the United Kingdom. They will employ a varied combination of musical instruments from the different countries and be exposed to diverse music concepts of the different cultures and music professionals participating in the Music Camp. The emphasis of the Music Camp is on the creative process and exchange. Its focus is to encourage collaboration among young artists for future artistic cooperation and career opportunities. Professional conductors and musicians from Asia and Europe will facilitate the Music Camp as well as present the creative output of the young musicians into a public performance and recording. I'mPULSE-The First Asia Europe Music Camp is being held in cooperation with the Cultural Center of the Philippines and is one of the events held in celebration of National Arts Month in February. The culminating event of the I'mPULSE-The First Asia Europe Music Camp will be held on Feb. 8, 7:30 p.m. at the CCP Tanghalang Aurelio Tolentino (CCP Little Theater). For more information, please call the CCP Marketing Department at tel no. 832-1125 local 1800-1806.

An INTERNATIONAL COMPANY with branches nationwide has immediate need for the following:

CHEMICAL, CIVIL, ELECTRICAL, INDUSTRIAL and MECHANICAL ENGINEERS

- Male, not more than 40 years old
- Licensed, with very good scholastic record from a prestigious school or university
- With more than 5 years work experience
- With excellent communications skills, both oral and written
- Computer literate and very familiar with ISO/TQM standard
- Flexible, hardworking and can work with minimum supervision

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT/SECRETARY

- College graduate and with good scholastic record preferably from UP, Ateneo, La Salle, UA & P
- Must have at least 5 to 10 years related work experience
- Not more than 35 years old
- Excellent in oral and written communications
- Good typing skills and computer literate
- Can be delegated to perform highly responsible duties and able to organize office systems and procedures
- Patient, flexible in time schedule and dedicated to work
- Ability to work with least supervision, results oriented, hardworking, and willing to work long hours
- Preferably a resident of San Juan, Quezon City, Makati or within Metro Manila

AUDITORS

- Male, not more than 40 years old
- Accounting graduate, preferable a CPA, from a reputable school or university
- At least five (5) years experience as an Auditor
- Comprehensive knowledge in financial statements preparation, feasibility studies, and taxation
- Experience in external audit is an advantage
- Familiar with different computerized accounting systems
- Honest, dependable, industrious, willing to work long hours

MOTORPOOL SUPERVISOR

- Male, not more than 45 years old
- Preferably a Mechanical Engineering graduate with good scholastic record
- Must have at least three (3) years comprehensive experience in Motorpool supervision
- With knowledge in repair of trucks, especially Isuzu and I.H.
- Reliable, a team player and can work long hours and under pressure
- Willing to relocate for provincial assignment

RECEPTIONIST

- Not more than 30 years old
- With smart appearance and good communication skills
- With pleasant and friendly personality and should be courteous
- Flexible, can work long hours and under pressure
- Should be efficient and well-organized and can work with minimum supervision
- Must have more than 3 years work experience in the same field

FITTERS

- Male, 25 to 35 years old
- Must have at least three (3) years experience in pipefitting in industrial plants
- Must be able to read or interpret piping drawings
- At least high school or vocational graduate related to pipefitting works

COMPANY DRIVER

- At least 28 to 35 years old
- Al least five (5) years experience in driving private vehicles as company driver
- Must be willing to drive 10-wheeler-type trucks
- Must be familiar with Metro Manila routes
- Knowledge in trouble shooting is an advantage
- Familiar with driver etiquette, with pleasing personality, alert, trustworthy and willing to work overtime

WELDERS

- Must be 22 to 30 years old
- Must have worked for at least two (2) years
- Must be 3G/6G level

HEAVY EQUIPMENT MECHANIC

- Experienced in major overhaul; able to repair engines, transmission, break system; rebuilding and heavy equipment preventive maintenance
- Preferably with some electrical background
- 28 to 40 years old
- At least five (5) years experience in related work

MAINTENANCE MECHANICS - (3)

- Prepeferably a mechanical engineer
- With experience in production equipment maintenance to include combustion and rotating equipment
- Male, 28-35 years of age
- Willing to work long hours and /or shifting schedule
- Willing to accept provincial assignment

PROCESS OPERATORS - (4)

- Preferably a chemical engineer, mechanical engineer is acceptable
- With production experience in the operation of a Chemical Plant
- Male, 28-35 years of age
- Willing to work long hours and /or shifting schedule
- Willing to accept provincial assignment

ELECTRICIAN - (1)

- Licenced master electrician or an electrical engineer
- With experience in Industrial Plant with knowledge in motor controls
- Male, 28-35 years of age
- Willing to work long hours and /or shifting schedule
- Willing to accept provincial assignment

FORKLIFT OPERATOR - (3)

- Vocational graduate
- With at least 2 years experience and with knowledge in equipment maintenance
- Male, 28-35 years of age
- Willing to work long hours and /or shifting schedule
- Willing to accept provincial assignment

Qualified applicants are requested to apply in person with a detailed resume, most recent I.D. Picture, NBI Clearance, transcript of records, Training and previous employment certificates at:
Suite 306, Bonaventure Plaza, Ortigas Ave., Greenhills, San Juan, M.M.

Do you want to be identified with a
large and well-respected conglomerate?
Do you want to be a part of a team of young & aggressive professionals
in charting the direction of a stable and fast-growing Bank?
If you answer in the affirmative, read on.

RobinsonsBank
A Savings Bank

A member of the highly diversified conglomerate, JG Summit Holdings Corporation., **Robinsons Bank** *is in urgent need of young professionals to fit the following key positions:*

Branch Manager

(For Dasmariñas, Cavite)

- Between 30 – 35 years old
- Graduate of any Business related course
- At least 2 yrs. Marketing experience & sufficient knowledge of branch operations

Marketing Officer Asset & Liabilities

(For Metro Manila, Cebu-Mandaue & Osmeña, Iloilo, San Fernando, Baguio & Naga)

- Between 25 - 35 years old
- Graduate of any Business related course
- With strong marketing background preferably in Banking or related fields
- Familiar with solicitation of deposit and auto loan accounts

Marketing Specialist

- Between 25-35 years old
- Graduate of any Business related course
- Preferably with advertising background
- With at least 2years experience in handling bank product presentation and materials conceptualization
- Highly creative and imaginative

Risk Officer

- Graduate of Math, Statistics or Actuarial Science
- A graduate degree/units in MS Finance will be a great advantage (but not required)
- Students of MS Finance with above undergrad courses are encouraged to apply
- Highly creative, analytical, energetic, can easily relate with people (not just with math equations)
- Rank will be commensurate w/ experience /education level
- Between 20-35 years old

Account Officer

(For Commercial/Consumer Lending)

- Between 25 – 35 years old
- Graduate of any Business related course
- With at least 2 yrs. experience as Account Officer for Commercial and Consumer Loans

Customer Relations Specialist

(For Metro Manila & Cebu)

- Between 20 – 25 years old
- Graduate of any Business related course
- Experience in tellering, new accounts and branch marketing is an advantage
- Willing to accept a fixed-term employment

Customer Care Assistant

- Between 20 – 25 years old
- Graduate of any Business or Communication related course
- With good oral & written comm. skills
- Willing to work during weekends
- Experience in call center is an advantage

Trust Head

- With comprehensive experience in all backroom Trust Operations
- Has extensive knowledge of all regulatory issues pertaining to trust
- Highly creative, energetic, able to assist the Trust/Marketing Head in product development
- Completed the Trust Institute of the Phils. training program on Trust Operations and Investment Management
- Rank will be commensurate w/ experience

Corplan Assistant

- Between 23-30 years old
- Graduate of Statistics or Actuarial Science
- Graduate/Units in MS Finance
- Previous experience not necessary
- Must be highly analytical

Sales & Service Officer

(For Pool)

- Male; Between 25-30 years old
- Graduate of any Business related course
- 3-5 years experience in, new accounts, tellering, bookkeeping and supervision and branch marketing is an advantage
- CPA an advantage

I.T. Head

- Between 30-40 years old
- With adequate experience in Banking Systems: CIF, GL, Deposit, Remittance, Loans, Treasury/Trust, Cards
- Technical skill experience: AS400, Windows NT, Windows 98/2000/ME/XP, Office98/2000/ME/XP, SQL Server/MS Access, RPG/Visual Basic, CISCO Router/ Extreme Switches/Firewall
- With adequate management skills.

System Operation Section Head

- Graduate of Computer Science or any related science courses
- Has a strong background in MIS and IT operation gained from Banks
- With in-depth knowledge on project management, SDLC & RCS methodologies
- Familiar with BSP Compliances & Financial Regulations
- 3-5 years experience in a Supervisory position or equivalent in an IT environment of Banks

I.T. Auditor

- Between 22 - 30 years old
- Graduate of Accounting; CPA
- With at least 1year experience in systems audit gained from an Audit Firm or Banks
- Must be highly analytical

Applicants for the above positions must be:

- Flexible
- Computer literate
- With good oral & written comm. skills
- With pleasing personality

Interested applicants may submit their Letter of Application, Resumé, & Transcript of Records to:

ROBINSONS SAVINGS BANK - HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGEMENT GROUP
Units 101 & 201 Continental Court Condominium,
47 Annapolis Street, Greenhills,San Juan
Fax no. (632) 7212336 • Email: recruitment@robinsonsbank.com.ph
Only qualified applicants shall be notified.

A JG Summit Company

MAKATI (SPORTS) CLUB, INC.

L.P. Leviste cor. Gallardo Sts., Salcedo Village
1227 Makati City, Philippines
Tel. Nos. 817-8731 to 39 • Fax No. 818-3847; 817-2849; 817-1869

MAKATI (SPORTS) CLUB, INC.
NOTICE OF AUCTION SALE

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Directors of the Makati (Sports) Club, Inc. has approved the sale by auction of the shares of the following individuals/corporate stockholders:

STOCKHOLDER	ADDRESS	SC. NO.
1. Rafael S. de Ocampo (0134)	3568 Bataan Street, Sta. Mesa, Manila	A-2172
2. Fiesta Tours and Travel, Corp. (1888)	C/O Juanito Victor Remulla, 119 Victoria Street, Magallanes Village, Makati City	A-2062
3. Centennial Realty Corporation (0241)	C/O Col. Bustos, 2403 Asia Tower, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City	A-1690
4. Daalco, Inc. (1640)	2/F, Alcar Bldg., 46 Lizares Avenue, Bacolod City 6100	A-1809
5. Masuda Marine Corporation (1902)	C/O Mr. Generandy M. Diaz Mercator Finance Corporation, 15/F, Trident Towers, 312 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City	A-2189
6. Francisco C. Buenaseda (0735)	#7 Balete Street, Forbes Park, Makati City	A-1543
7. Cirpriano C. Bautista (0123)	313 Gov. Pascual Street, Navotas, Metro Manila	B-104
8. Yusuki Sami (1916)	Embassy of Japan, 2627 Roxas Blvd., Pasay City	B-931

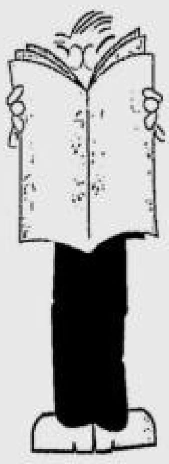
The auction sale will be held on 28 January 2005 at 10:00 A.M. at the Club's Dasmariñas Room.

This announcement also serves as a notice and demand to the members/stockholders concerned that the auction of said shares may be avoided if they pay the overdue accounts at anytime during office hours before the auction sale.

(Sgd.) **FELIX ADELFO B. LOPEZ, Jr.**
Corporate Secretary

(PDI--Jan. 16, 2005)

Where
you
find
the
best.



JOB Market ONLINE

VISIT US AT
www.jobmarketonline.com

BusinessTrends
A KELLY SERVICES COMPANY

URGENT REQUIREMENTS

CALL CENTER TEAM LEADERS

College Graduate * Preferably 1 year experienced Team Leaders * Must be proficient in team-handling and performance metrics *

Full-Time positions available

CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVES INBOUND and OUTBOUND

Must be willing to work in a CALL CENTER environment * Excellent ENGLISH communication skills * Willing to work on shifting schedules * Minimum educational attainment: 2nd Year College *
300 Full-Time positions available

MANAGERIAL POSITIONS

CALL CENTER OPERATIONS MANAGER
PURCHASING AND SUPPLIES MANAGER
HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER
ACCOUNTING MANAGER
MARKETING AND SALES MANAGER
REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE MANAGER
MERCHANDISE DIVISION MANAGER
MERCHANDISE PLANNING & CONTROL MANAGER
SYSTEMS OPERATIONS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER
STORE MANAGER

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

DATABASE ADMINISTRATOR
SOFTWARE DEVELOPERS (C/C++ * COBOL * JAVA * ORACLE * ASP.NET * VB.NET * C# * VISUAL FOXPRO * PHP)

HEALTHCARE

NURSES
MEDICAL TECHNOLOGISTS
MEDICAL SECRETARIES
LABORATORY TECHNICIANS

SALES

BUSINESS DEV'T OFFICERS
ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES
DEALER COORDINATORS
SALES ASSISTANTS

OFFICE SUPPORT

Executive/Admin Assistant
Receptionist
General Clerk
Encoder

ACCOUNTING

Accounts Analyst
Accounting Assistant
Accounting Clerk
Finance Staff

1603 JOLLIBEE PLAZA, EMERALD AVE.,
ORTIGAS CENTER, PASIG CITY
TEL: (632) 631-3109/47
E-MAIL: blphils2004@lspx.com.ph

A YOUNG AND DYNAMIC IT DISTRIBUTION COMPANY IN PASIG CITY IS URGENTLY IN NEED FOR THE FF POSITIONS:

General Accountant

- Provide timely and accurate financial information for statutory and management purposes
- Institute effective accounting system and internal controls
- Budget preparation and variance analysis
- Ensure compliance with tax regulations and business license and permits
- Handles Cash Flow Projections, Receivable, and Payables

POSITION REQUIREMENTS:

- Candidate must possess a Professional License in Accountancy
- Experience in accounting System and Application
- 1 year above experience in accounting field,
- Knowledge in tax regulation and business permits.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT PERSONNEL

POSITION REQUIREMENTS:

- Preference will be given to candidates with at least 6 months experience selling mobile computing solutions, MP3 Players.
- As a basic qualification, candidates must be graduates of any four- year or five-year course from reputable institutions.
- They must also be articulate with strong organizational skills, target-driven, resource and knowledgeable in networking and server technology.
- Serious consideration will also be given to candidates who has the ability to converse in Chinese language
- Hired candidates will be tasked to achieve sales revenue for the company's products with focus on reseller or dealer accounts.
- As such, they must be able to demonstrate skills in customer relationship management, business development and negotiation.

PROMODIZERS

REQUIREMENTS:

- Male. 18 - 25. Atleast 5'7" in height. Good looking and body physique with pleasing personality.
- Required skill(s): has potential in sales.
- Applicants must be willing to work in any SM Appliance Stores
- Undergraduate applicants are encouraged to apply.

Interested applicant may submit their resume at jobs@i-quadtron.com.ph or personally delivered at 1606 The Taipan Place Emerald Ave., Pasig City.

ADB EMPLOYEES' MULTI-PURPOSE COOPERATIVE

is in need of a SENIOR STAFF

Candidates should possess the following qualifications:

- a Bachelor degree in Business Administration (BSBA) or Commerce (BSC) graduate, major in Accounting; must be a Certified Public Accountant (CPA);
- at least two (2) years relevant experience in a Cooperative or related business;
- capable to manage the cooperative and/or the accounting department;
- experienced in the preparation of monthly financial statements, annual and mid-year operational budget;
- computer literate
- hardworking, with pleasing personality and good oral and written communication skills.

Candidates must submit comprehensive resumés, including references until 21 January 2005 to:

The Chairperson
Administration Commitiee
ADB Employees' Multi-Purpose Cooperative
No. 6 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Complex,
Mandaluyong City

For inquiries, please call the Officer-in-Charge at 632-5144

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cut & clip

GALING PILIPINO MOVEMENT (GPM) is a non-profit, private sector initiative of citizens committed to recognize, affirm and propagate what is good and excellent about being PILIPINO to develop a culture of excellence and a commendable sense of national pride as a value-centered foundation for nation-building. *Itaguyod natin ang Galing Pilipino!*

January 2005 Calendar of Events

GP Youth Kapihan

January 15 2005
Saturday 8:00 to 12nn
OZ Audio Visual Room, Adamson University

"Galing Kabataan, Pag-asa ng Bayan". Galing Pilipino Movement gets a fresh push from the new graduates of its recent Galing Pilipino Young Leaders Camp, as they spearhead volunteer efforts for worthwhile projects, such as eco-agro tourism development, scholarships for English proficiency, volunteer teacher / community worker program among others. Meet these "Galing Kabataans" as they kick off a series of GP Breakfast forums in participating Manila campuses, starting with this month's host Adamson University

Free Registration! Brunch courtesy of Chowking

Galing Housekeeping Seminar

8am to 5pm, Monday, January 17, 2005
I-PEX Training Center
Hotel Victoria de Malate, Manila

GPM's eco-agro tourism program, BISITA PILIPINAS, will enlist private homes, preferably ancestral houses whose owners and caretakers are willing to participate in the development of a local bed & breakfast homestay program. Learn the techniques of quality housekeeping. find out how to make beds ala hotel style. know the proper use of cleaning aids. AND MORE! A well-kept house speaks of a well-run home

Seminar Fee: P100.00 for GPM Members, P200.00 for non-members

Natural Farming Seminar

8am to 5pm, Saturday, January 22, 2005
Chowking Pioneer, Mandaluyong City

BABUYAN NA HINDI AMOY BABOY! Innovative Galing Pilipino seminar conducted by Mr Andry Lim. Attend this seminar & find out how to raise pigs *WALANG HUGAS, WALANG LIGO, WALANG BAHO!* Learn how to grow *CHEMICAL-FREE FRUITS & VEGETABLES*. And know how to make concoctions using natural ingredients found in your backyard.

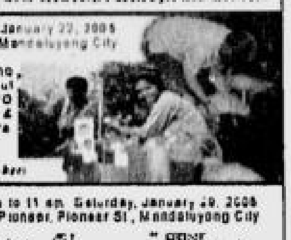
Seminar Fee: P500.00 for GPM members. P1,000.00 for non-members

GP Kapihan

8am to 11 am, Saturday, January 29, 2005
Chowking Pioneer, Pioneer St., Mandaluyong City

"Galing Professionals for a Cause" GP Kapihan is a monthly breakfast forum that features good news and innovative and uncommon solutions to common problems as a counterpoint to pervading negativism and bad news syndrome.

GPM believes that many Pilipino professionals have the desire to share their talents and skills to make this country a better place to live in, but would not know how to do it. In this GP Kapihan session get to know voluntary organizations that can offer you opportunities to be part of nation building causes. Make your contribution count!



Free Registration! Brunch courtesy of Chowking

Sponsored by: PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Chowking

For particulars call GPM Foundation Inc at (02)633-1089 or (02)631-3932 or log on to www.galingpilipino.com.

MICROCADD TECHNOLOGIES

Store Supervisors

- Graduate of Business Management or other related courses
- Male / Female, 23 - 28 years old
- Experience is an advantage but not required
- Preferably with knowledge in CAD

All qualified applicants . please send resume

3/F Duka Consolacion Bldg., 807 Gen. Santos Ave., Araneta Center, Cubao, Quezon City (beside Farmers)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Please be informed that Provisional Receipt series no. 51687-51700 and 52601-52650 of STRAIGHTLINES INTL. And 68456-68500 of CENTRAL BOOKSTORE. And 99001-99300 of STERLING PAPER PRODUCTS ENT., INC. was lost last December 16, 2004. Any transactions under this no. shall not be honored by the company.

THE MANAGEMENT

(PDI–January 16, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
Office of the President
Metro Manila Development Authority
PASIG RIVER REHABILITATION COMMISSION

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Project : Pasig River Environmental Management and Rehabilitation Sector Development Program (PAREMAR).
Loan No. : Asian Development Bank (ADB) Loan No. 1746-PHI
Description of Works : Construction and Development of a Linear Park along Brgy. Barangka Ibaba in Mandaluyong City.

1. The Government of the Philippines (GOP) has received a loan from the ADB toward the cost of PAREMAR and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan, together with the GOP counterpart funds, to payments under the Contract for Brgy. Barangka Ibaba Linear Park (Contract No. EPA-LPP-20).
2. The Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission (PRRC) as the executing agency now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the following contract package:

   Contract Package : Construction and Development of a Linear Park
   Contract No. : EPA-LPP-20
   Area : 1,500 sq.m.
   Location : Brgy. Barangka Ibaba, Mandaluyong City
   Contract Duration : 120 calendar days
   Project Description : Construction and development of a linear park / promenade which includes the following items of work: basketball court, fence, barangay facilities, ferry station, electrical works, plumbing works and landscaping.

3. Interested Bidders shall secure the Bid Documents and submit bids as follows:

Activity	Date	Time	Venue	Remarks
Securing of (a) Eligibility Checklist or (b) submission of Letter of Intent and purchase of complete set of Bid Documents upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Php 11,500.00	From 24 - 28 Jan	8 am – 5 pm	PRRC 2F, MWSS Engineering Bldg. Katipunan Road, Old Balara, Quezon City 1105	Eligibility checklist is free of charge
Securing of additional eligibility information (if any) and inspection of Bidding Documents	From 24 - 28 Jan	8 am – 5 pm		For those who secured only the Eligibility Checklist
a. Pre Bid Conference.	11 February	9 am		
b. Site Inspection	11 February	11 am	Brgy. Barangka, Ibaba, Mandaluyong City	Right after Pre-Bid Conference
Deadline for submission of Bids	28 February	1 pm	PRRC (same address)	Late bids (bids submitted after 1 pm) shall not be accepted
Opening of Bids	01 March	9 am		Bids shall be opened in the presence of the bidders

4. The City of Mandaluyong shall be the implementing agency of the Contract.
5. Bidding (Eligibility Check / Prequalification, Bid Evaluation and Award of Contract) shall be conducted on the basis of local competitive bidding among interested Bidders from ADB eligible source countries as defined under the *"Guidelines for Procurement by the Asian Development Bank and its Borrowers"* pursuant to the Implementing Rules and Regulations of R.A. No. 9184 and ADB Guidelines for the Procurement of Civil Works as standardized under the harmonized ADB-GOP Procurement of Works guidelines
6. PRRC-IABAC reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at anytime prior to Contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) **BINGLE H. B. GUTIERREZ**
Executive Director

Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission
2/F, MWSS Engineering Bldg. Katipunan Road, Old Balara, Quezon City 1105
Tel. Nos. 433-3444 and 433-3446
Email address: prrc@tri-lays.com
Fax No.: 926-6449

(PDI – Janury 16 & 24, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education (DepEd)
SECONDARY EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (SEDIP)
National Project Management Office (NPMO)
5th Floor, Bonifacio Building, DepEd Complex, Meralco Ave., Pasig City

INVITATION TO BID

The Republic of the Philippines through the Department of Education is a recipient of an Official Development Assistance (ODA) loan from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) in the amount of JPY 7.210 million to finance the Secondary Education Development and Improvement Project (SEDIP). It is intended that part of the proceeds of the loan will be utilized for eligible expenditures for the new construction of two (2) units, Two-storey, Eight (8) – Classroom Buildings with Two (2) Toilets, one shall be constructed in Bais City NHS-Main, Bais City and the other shall be in Sta. Catalina Community High School, Sta. Catalina, both in the province of Negros Oriental.

JBIC requires that bidders and contractors as well as the DepEd, under contracts funded with JBIC ODA loans, observe the highest standard of ethics during the procurement and execution of such contract. In pursuance of this, JBIC: (i) will reject a proposal for award if it determines that the bidder recommended for award has engaged in corrupt or fraudulent practices in competing for the contract in question, and (ii) will recognize a contractor as ineligible, for a stated period of time, to be awarded a contract funded with JBIC ODA loans if it, at any time, determines that the contractor has engaged in corrupt or fraudulent practices in competing for or in executing another contract financed by JBIC ODA loans or other Japanese ODA.

Bidding is open to all Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) registered contractors or joint venture contractors with valid license, general building in category and eligible to enter into a contract based on award.

The following are the information and schedules of activities in the bidding process that should be made known to the qualified bidders upon submission of a Letter of Intent (LOI) for the particular project/s.

Particulars	Bais City NHS-Main	Sta. Catalina Community HS
Issuance of Bidding Documents	The Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) City Mayor's Office Bais City, Negros Oriental	The Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) Mayor's Office, Municipal Hall Sta. Catalina, Negros Oriental
Tel. No.	(035)531-0594/ CGSO (035)541-5114	(035)531-0594/ (035)531-0491 loc. 12
Cost of Bidding Documents	P3,000.00	P3,000.00
Start Date of Issuance	January 17, 2005	January 17, 2005
Deadline of Issuance	February 3, 2005 at 5:00 p.m.	February 3, 2005 at 5:00 p.m.
Pre-bid Conferences	February 7, 2005 at 2:00 p.m.	February 8, 2005 at 2:00 p.m.
Deadline of Submission of Bids	February 18, 2005 at 10:00 a.m.	February 17, 2005 at 10:00 a.m.

All the submitted bids, together with the required documents stipulated in the Bidding Documents, will be opened shortly after the deadline of submission of bids in the presence of the bidders or their legally authorized representative/s.

(Sgd.) **JUAN MIGUEL M. LUZ**
Undersecretary for Administration and Finance

(PDI - Jan. 16 & 23, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Negros Oriental
City of Bayawan
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The City Government of Bayawan thru its BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE invites interested suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the supply and delivery of the following items:

BID NO.	PR NO.	ITEMS	ABC	SOURCE OF FUNDS	DATE/TIME	
					Pre-bid Conference	Deadline/Opening Of Bids
05-001	05-001	1 unit Motor Grader (Articulated, good reconditioned unit)	3,000,000.00	General Fund	2:00 PM, 01/31/2005	10:30 AM, 02/14/2005
05-002	05-006	IT Equipment	4,000,000.00	General Fund	2:00 PM, 01/31/2005	10:30 AM, 02/14/2005
05-003	JO 05-008	To supply and deliver fuel for the LGU Operations CY 2005		General Fund	2:00 PM, 01/31/2005	10:30 AM, 02/14/2005

Place of Delivery: FOB BAYAWAN CITY WAREHOUSE. Period of Delivery: 12 Calendar Days upon receipt of Purchase Order; Warranty Required: 3 months for supplies. 1 year for equipment. Retention money or special bank guarantee equivalent to 10% of contract price will be withheld to cover such warranty obligation.

In order to qualify for participation in the public bidding, the bidders should conform to all the eligibility criteria as prescribed under Section 23 of IRR-A of Republic Act No. 9184.

Bid documents shall be available at the BAC Office, Annex Building Sports Complex Building, LGU Bayawan City starting January 17, 2005 upon payment of prescribed non-refundable fee.

Bidders shall drop their duly accomplished eligibility requirements, technical and financial proposals in two separate envelopes in the bid boxes at the BAC Office, Bayawan City on or before the deadline of submission of bids.

All particulars relative to eligibility process, opening and evaluation of bids, post-qualification and award of contract shall be governed by the applicable provisions of RA 9184.

The City of Bayawan reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any defects or formality therein and to accept bids considered responsive and most advantageous to the government.

Details of bid items are posted at the official website of the City of Bayawan, the www.bayawancity.gov.ph, the G-EPS, and at the BAC Bulletin Boards, LGU Bayawan City. For more information, please contact the BAC Secretariat at Telephone Numbers (035) 531-0038 and 531-0020 local 202

(Sgd) PANCHO F. VILLASIS
City Administrator, Chairman, BAC

(PDI– January 16 & 23, 2005)

DBP Development Bank of the Philippines

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID FOR GENERAL CONTRACTORS

Construction of DBP Branch Building, Baguio City

The Development Bank of the Philippines is inviting General Contractors ("Medium B" IAC Category) with experience in multi-storey building construction for Eligibility Check for the proposed construction of the DBP Branch Building in Session Road, Baguio City.

Approved Budget for the Contract	P 100,000,000.00
Source of Fund:	Approved Budget for Capital Expenditures for Construction.
Scope of Work:	Shall cover the furnishing, installation and completion of any and all necessary materials, labor, tools, equipment, supplies, utilities, transportation, superintendence / supervision and other facilities for the satisfactory performance to complete the construction of the five-storey (7-level) DBP Branch building.
Contract duration:	Three hundred sixty (360) calendar days upon issuance of notice to proceed.

Application for eligibility check is open to Contractors, who have completed five (5) construction projects in the Philippines of similar nature and magnitude (office buildings, banks or any financial institutions) as the proposed DBP project with a certification of satisfactory performance within the last ten (10) years.

Evaluation of the eligible bidders shall make use of the "pass/fail" method under RA 9184.

Schedule of Activities:

Particulars	Date	Venue
Issuance of eligibility requirements*	January 17-28, 2005	BAC Secretariat, 6th Floor, DBP Main Building
Deadline of submission of eligibility requirements and letter of intent	February 1, 2005 not later than 9:00 a.m.	OPS Conference Room, 6th Floor, DBP Main Building
Issuance of Bidding Documents to Eligible Bidders upon payment of non-refundable fee of P50,000.00	February 7-11, 2005	BAC Secretariat, 6th Floor, DBP Main Building
Pre-Bid Conference	February 15, 2005 9:00 a.m.	OPS Conference Room, 6th Floor, DBP Main Building
Submission of Technical and Financial Proposals	February 22, 2005 not later than 9:00 a.m.	OPS Conference Room, 6th Floor, DBP Main Building
Opening of Technical and Financial Proposals	February 22, 2005 9:30 a.m.	OPS Conference Room, 6th Floor, DBP Main Building

* You may download these checklist at www.devbankphilcom.ph and at the Electronic Procurement Service of the Department of Budget and Management.

For inquiries, please call telephone number 815-0945.

This bidding shall be governed by the Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act No. 9184, , otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act", Resolutions issued by the Government Procurement Policy Board and the Construction Industry Authority of the Philippines, PCAB, pursuant to Republic Act No. 4566, as amended.

The Development Bank of the Philippines reserves the right to reject incomplete or any and all documents, which do not comply with the requirements.

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

(PDI–Jan. 16 & 23, 2005)

DBP Development Bank of the Philippines

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID FOR WORKS ENGINEER

Construction of DBP Branch Building, Baguio City

The Development Bank of the Philippines is inviting Works Engineer with experience in multi-storey building construction for Eligibility Check for the proposed construction of the DBP Branch Building in Session Road, Baguio City.

Approved Budget for the Contract	P 3,000,000.00
Source of Fund:	Approved Budget for Capital Expenditures for Construction.
Scope of Work:	Full time supervision and coordination of the construction project to ensure that the project is completed within the timetable in conformity with the plans, specifications and other related documents to be issued by the Architect and DBP.
Contract duration:	Construction phase until post-construction phase

Application for eligibility check is open to Works Engineers, registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission/Department of Trade and Industry who have supervised the construction of a multi-storey (at least 6-storey) Office Building worth at least P100 Million, preferably in Baguio City.

Evaluation of the eligible bidders shall make use of the quality-cost based method under RA 9184 wherein the technical proposals shall be evaluated first and only the financial proposals of the Works Engineers who meet the minimum technical rating shall be opened. The combined numerical ratings of their technical and financial proposals shall be given weights of 60% and 40% respectively.

Schedule of Activities:

Particulars	Date	Venue
Issuance of eligibility requirements*	January 10-19, 2005	BAC Secretariat, 6th Floor, DBP Main Building
Submission and Opening of eligibility requirements and letter of intent	January 20, 2005 not later than 9:00 a.m.	BAC Secretariat, 6th Floor, DBP Main Building
Issuance of Bidding Documents to Eligible Bidders upon payment of P1,000.00	February 1-9, 2005	BAC Secretariat, 6th Floor, DBP Main Building
Pre-Bid Conference	February 10, 2005 9:00 a.m.	OPS Conference, Room, 6th Floor, DBP Main Building
Submission of Technical and Financial Proposals	February 17, 2005 2:00 p.m.	OPS Conference, Room, 6th Floor, DBP Main Building
Evaluation of Technical Proposals	February 18-22, 2005	OPS Conference, Room, 6th Floor, DBP Main Building
Opening of Financial Proposals	February 23, 2005 2:00 p.m.	OPS Conference, Room, 6th Floor, DBP Main Building

* You may download these forms at www.devbankphilcom.ph and at the Electronic Procurement Service of the Department of Budget and Management.

For inquiries, please call telephone number 815-0945.

This bidding shall be governed by the Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act No. 9184 s.2003, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act."

The Development Bank of the Philippines reserves the right to reject incomplete or any and all documents, which do not comply with the requirements.

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

(PDI–Jan. 9 & 16, 2005)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

MARIANNE NAGUIT, proprietress of
MICHAEL MEGA CENTER, with business
address at Moras dela Paz, Sto. Tomas Pampanga;
- has pending criminal cases (10 counts of B.P. # 22)
before the Third Municipal Circuit Trial Court of
Sto. Tomas Pampanga
- Accused **Naguit** is in hiding, a warrant of Arrest has
already been issued.
Call 09178730552 for her whereabouts.

(PDI - Jan 16 2005)

All SPAs given by Romeo N. Piyalte prior Jan. 16, 2005 to any persons has already been revoked. Any transactions in his behalf will not be honored by him.

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▪ ACCOUNT OFFICERS

- Must have 2-3 years related experience in account solicitation of auto, housing & salary loans
- Preferably not more than 32 years old and residents from Metro Manila, Bulacan and Dagupan

▪ BRANCH MANAGERS

- Will be responsible for attaining the branch's target financial volume through deepening of existing accounts and acquisitions
- Will also be in charge of planning & implementing sales & service strategies of the branch
- Must have 3-5 years related banking experience in aggressive account generation
- Preferably not more than 42 years old
- Preferably residents from Metro Manila,Tarlac, Cebu & Iloilo

▪ CUSTOMER SERVICE HEADS

- Will be responsible for developing, managing, executing, monitoring and implementing service strategies while ensuring compliance to internal and regulatory policies and procedures
- Must have 2-3 years experience in the same field and capacity
- CPAs will have an advantage
- Preferably not more than 32 years old
- Preferably residents from Metro Manila, Parañaque, QC, Bulacan, Cebu & Iloilo

▪ FINANCIAL ANALYSTS

- Must be very good in oral and written communications
- Must have very good analyzing and research skills
- Experience in planning, budgeting & financial analysis is a plus
- **Fresh graduates are welcome to apply**

▪ PRODUCT MANAGERS

- Will be responsible for the development, enhancement and management of the bank's products to achieve profitability targets
- Must have at least 2 years experience in the same field & capacity
- Preferably not more than 32 years old

OTHER POSITIONS AVAILABLE:

▪ NEW ACCOUNTS CLERKS/ TELLERS/ ACCOUNTING STAFF

- Must have a business related degree
- Must not be more than 25 years old
- Must have very good communication skills
- Preferably residents from Divisoria, Pasig, Pasay, Baclaran, QC, Bulacan, Laguna, Davao and Cagayan De Oro
- Exposure to banking operations is an advantage
- **Chinese speaking** NAC & Teller candidates will have an advantage; **Fresh graduates are welcome to apply**

* The candidates for the above mentioned positions **MUST** be graduates of any business related courses.

▪ COLLECTOR/ REPOSSESORS
▪ CREDIT INVESTIGATOR APPRAISERS

- Preferably degree holders of any business related course
- Must have at least 1 year related experience in collection, credit investigation and appraisal
- Must have very good oral & written communication skills
- Must be residents from Pangasinan
- Must know how to drive a motor cycle or a car
- Preferably not more than 28 years old

▪ HR OFFICERS

- Must be well versed in all the facets of HR specially in employee & labor relations and benefits planning & administration
- Must have 3-5 years related experience in the same capacity
- Preferably graduates of Psychology or Behavioral Science
- Preferably not more than 32 years old

▪ PC-BASED PROGRAMMERS

- Must be well versed in any web and object oriented development tool
- Must have at least 2 years of progressive responsible experience in the PC-based system applications design, analysis, development and maintenance work with relevant exposure to banking operations
- Must be graduates of any IT related courses
- Preferably not more than 30 years old

Send your application letter, resume, transcript of records and 2x2 photo on or before January 31, 2005 to:

Position: ____________
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Pearl Drive, Ortigas Center, Pasig City

Email Address: ramosimee@yahoo.com

A US-based I.T. Company is in urgent need of dynamic individuals for its Philippine office.

Web Programmers / Application Developers

- *Advanced knowledge in Java Script, VBScript, ASP, ASP.NET and Visual Basic programming languages.*
- *Sufficient background in SQL Server*
- *Background on GIS applications an advantage*

CAD Support Engineers

- *Degree in Engineering (Civil / Electrical I Mechanical) or Architecture*
- *Advanced Knowledge in AutoCAD VBA*
- *Strong communication and troubleshooting skills to support US-based Engineering customers.*
- *Must be willing to work on different shifts*

Systems Engineer

- *Demonstrated skills in Windows 2000/2003*
- *Advanced hardware, software & network troubleshooting and support skills*
- *Active Directory Services Management*
- *Security Management & Group Policy Objects*
- *Working background on Unix / Oracle preferred*
- *Minimum 2 years experience on Windows Server support required*

Technical Documentation Officer

- *College graduate of any 4-year course*
- *Excellent written and oral communication skills*
- *Highly effective organization skills*
- *Experienced in writing proposals and user documentations for software applications*
- *Knowledge in project management tools an advantage*
- *Proficiency in computer applications required*

Finance and Admin Officer

- *Business degree in Accounting or Finance*
- *Knowledgeable in accounting principles, practices and financial reporting*
- *Must have at least 2 years experience in related work*
- *Proficiency in related computer applicationsPreferably with office administration experience*

Candidates must be between 21 to 35 years old, with good interpersonal skills, and able to work efficiently under pressure.

Please send your resume with 2x2 colored picture to :

33 - D Rufino Pacific Tower
6784 Ayala Ave. Makati City 1226

Marketing Manager

Allegro Pacific (Phils.) Inc., a bag manufacturer is looking for a talented and strong marketing professional who will play a key role in the company's goal for local market and product expansion.

Key Responsibilities:

- Study, analyze present marketing environment and conceptualize overall marketing strategies to improve product and sales profile.
- Prepare action programs to carry out marketing strategies
- Identify new product lines or items. Formulate plan and execute marketing plan.

Requirements:

- Male or female, not more than 35 years old
- Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's/College Degree in Administration, preferably in Marketing
- Solid track record of at least 3 years in managerial level, preferably in marketing, specializing in fashion industry
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Lot 1–Agro-Industrial Lot w/imprvmnt
LA 54,864 sqm, FA 1,092 sqm
L656-A,656-B-2-A&B,655-D-2 Nat'l HiwayCarpenterHill,Koronadal,South
Minimum Bid Price P8,958,021.00

Lot 2 – Res'l. Lot w/ Imprvmnt
LA 601 sqm Center Paredes, Koronadal City
Minimum Bid Price P 940,000.00

Lot 3–Res'l. Lot w/ Imprvmnt
LA 277 sqm L1-A Siodina Subd, Barrio1, Koronadal City
Minimum Bid Price P 305,440.00

Lot 4 – Res'l. Lot w/ Imprvmnt
LA 588 sqm L13-I-8&9 Ardena Subd, Purok Hillside, Brgy. Sta. Cruz, Koronadal City
Minimum Bid Price P 281,920.00

Lot 5 – Res'l. Lot w/ Imprvmnt
LA 375 sqm L2 Blk5 Lebanan Subd Zone I, Poblacion, Koronadal City, South
Minimum Bid Price P 538,617.00

Lot 6 - Res'l. Lot LA 374 sqm
L13 Blk7 Pantua Vill, Zone III Poblacion, Koronadal City, South
Minimum Bid Price P 240,000.00

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Res'l. Lots,Guadalupe Subd,Lanang

Lot		LA	Minimum Bid Price
Lot 7	L2 Blk11	LA 304 sqm	P 608,000.00
Lot 8	L3 Blk11	LA 304 sqm	P 608,000.00
Lot 9	L4 Blk11	LA 304 sqm	P 608,000.00
Lot 10	L5 Blk11	LA 304 sqm	P 608,000.00
Lot 11	L6 Blk11	LA 304 sqm	P 608,000.00
Lot 12	L7 Blk11	LA 304 sqm	P 608,000.00
Lot 13	L8 Blk11	LA 304 sqm	P 608,000.00
Lot 14	L9 Blk11	LA 304 sqm	P 608,000.00
Lot 15	L10 Blk11	LA 304 sqm	P 608,000.00
Lot 16	L11 Blk11	LA 304 sqm	P 608,000.0

DAVAO

Res'l. Lots, Guadalupe Subd, Lanang

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Lot 17	L12 Blk11	LA 304 sqm	P 608,000.00
Lot 18	L13 Blk11	LA 304 sqm	P 608,000.00
Lot 19	L14 Blk11	LA 304 sqm	P 608,000.00
Lot 20	L15 Blk11	LA 304 sqm	P 608,000.00
Lot 21	L16 Blk11	LA 304 sqm	P 608,000.00
Lot 22	L17 Blk11	LA 304 sqm	P 608,000.00
Lot 23	L18 Blk11	LA 304 sqm	P 608,000.00
Lot 24	L19 Blk11	LA 304 sqm	P 608,000.00
Lot 25	L20 Blk11	LA 304 sqm	P 608,000.00

Lot 26 – Res'l. Lot w/ Imprvmnt
LA320sqm
L41 Blk 2, Diamond St.,EcolandSubd.,
Minimum Bid Price P 2,552,143.00

Lot 27 – Res'l. Lot w/ Imprvmnt
LA270sqm 87- A Molave St., Nova Tierra Village, Lanang
Minimum Bid Price P 4,127,355.00

Lot 28 – Res'l. Lot w/ Imprvmnt
LA 236sqm FA 331sqm
L11 Blk3 Waling-waling St, Garden Park Vill., Bajada
Minimum Bid Price P 3,513,291.00

Lot 29 – Res'l. w/ Imprvmnt
LA 300 sqm Narra St., Nova Tierra Village, Lanang
Minimum Bid Price P 1,100,000.00

Lot 30 – Res'l. w/ Imprvmnt
LA 480sqm 6th B St., Ecoland Subd., Ph1. Matina
Minimum Bid Price P 1,996,800.00

GENERAL SANTOS

Res'l./ Industrial Lots, Airport Road, Banisil Subd., Brgy. Tambler
Lot 31 – Lot 7-O-3-A LA 5,522 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 2,070,750.00
Lot 32 - Lot 7-O-2 LA 2,000 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 450,000.00

GEN. SANTOS

Lot 33–Res'l./Industrial Lot
LA3,922sqm Lot12-E-1 Brgy.Tambler
Minimum Bid Price P 2,353,200.00

Lot 34 - Res'l. Lot LA 1,647sqm
Lot 21-I-1 & 21-I-5-R Brgy. Tambler
Minimum Bid Price P 461,160.00

SULTAN KUDARAT

Lot 35–Res'l./Comm'l., Lot
LA1,104sqm L593-G-3 & G-4-B Canos St., Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price P 7,862,400.00

Lot 36 – Industrial Lot LA10,000sqm
Lot 328-A-3 Brgy. Carmen, San Pablo
Minimum Bid Price P 1,831,410.00

Lot 37 – Res'l. Lot LA 496 sqm
Lot6756-T-5-A Brgy. San Pablo, Tacurong City
Minimum Bid Price P 130,200.00

Lot 38 –Res'l. w/ Imprvmnt
LA 2,099sqm 1st Block, Purok Rosal, Brgy. New Isabela, Tacurong
Minimum Bid Price P 1,023,375.00

Lot 39 – Industrial Lot w/ Imprvmnt
LA 35,150sqm, FA 17,295sqm
L10089-A&B-2 & 37-A Nat'l. Hway Brgy. Carmen, Tacurong City
Minimum Bid Price P 44,786 320 00

BUKIDNON

Lot 40 – Res'l. Lot LA 564 sqm
Lot501 Davao–Cagayan Nat'l Hi-way, Sitio Dabong–dabong, Bo.Mailag, Valencia
Minimum Bid Price P 282,000.00

Lot 41 –Res'l. w/ Imprvmnt
LA 2,141sqm Lot A-11-C-7-D-1 Brgy. Lumbo, Valencia City
Minimum Bid Price P 824,760.00

BUTUAN

Lot 42 – Industrial Lot w/ Imprvmnt
LA 23,301sqm, FA 9,044sqm
L1-A & 2 Km. 4 Baan
Minimum Bid Price P 18,342,225.00

CAGAYAN DE ORO

Lot 43 – Res'l. Lot w/ Imprvmnt
LA 1,092 sqm, FA 639 sqm
L39 Blk1 SapphireSt, GoldenVill, Carmen
Minimum Bid Price P 5,592,600.00

CAGAYAN DE ORO

Res'l. Lots, Xavier Estates, Upper Balulang
Lot 44 – L5 Blk6 Ph1 LA 300 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 1,536,000.00
Lot 45 – L16 Blk14 Ph1 LA 287 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 849,520.00

Lot 46 – Industrial w/ Imprvmnt
LA 2,305sqm Gaabucayan Ext.,Puntod
Minimum Bid Price P 17,573,350.00

Lot 47 - Comm'l. LA 846 sqm
Comm'l Lot # 2 , Osmeña Ext.,
Minimum Bid Price P 6,091,200.00

Lot 48 – Comm'l. LA 535 sqm
Corrales Ext.,
Minimum Bid Price P 3,400,000.00

DIPOLOG CITY

Lot 49 - Res'l LA 3,403 sqm
L2113-F-3 Dipolog-Ipil Nat'l. Highway, Brgy. Olingan
Minimum Bid Price P 2,099,585.00

PARAÑAQUE

Res'l. Condo,Makati South HillsAracade, East Service Road, Bgy. Balagbag
Lot 50 – Unit 201 FA 68.75 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 1,168,750.00
Lot 51 – Unit 301 FA 136.31 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 2,317,270.00
Lot 52 – Unit 302 FA 107.35 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 1,824,950.00

Lot 53 – Res'l. Condo. FA 185.87 sqm
Unit 1605 Chateau De Baie Condo. Roxas Blvd., cor Airport Rd., Baclaran
Minimum Bid Price P 4,460,000.00

QUEZON CITY

Lot 54 – Res'l. Twnhse FA 230.61 sqm
Unit 13 Capitol Golf Townhomes & Golfers Villas, Capitol Hills
Minimum Bid Price P 3,975,980.00

Lot 55 –Res'l. w/ Imprvmnt LA160sqm
Road Lot 649-D-3-C, Towerville Homes, Bgy. Culiat
Minimum Bid Price P 4,007,250.00

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Lot 56 –Comm'l Condo FA 158.76sqm
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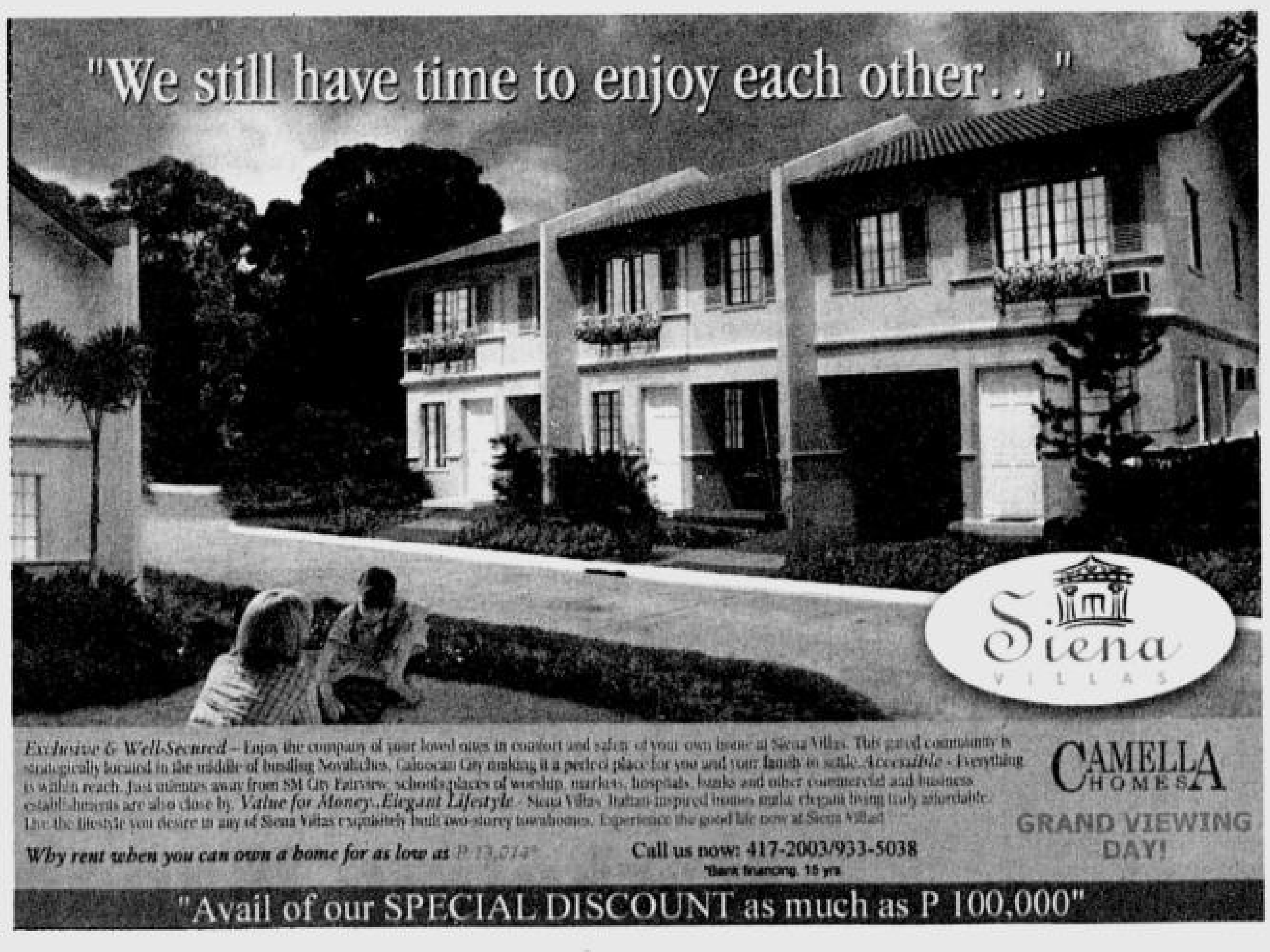

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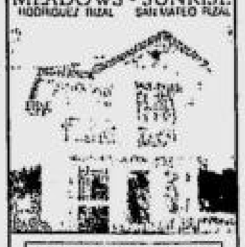

3 BR 2 TB W/BATH TUB & CARPORT

2 BR 2 TB W/CARPORT

CALL:
655-0134
630-6189

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

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REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

COMMERCIAL

KALOOCAN

MON/EDSA 330SQM 14500/m² SALE 6.5M terms 2795480

COMML/RESDL

PASIG

PRIME PROPERTY 418sqm 5Dr 2Sty Apt. infrnt of Pamantasan ng Lunsod ng Pasig 09189422422•09178212826

VARIED AREAS

Invest in foreclosed /Bank repossesed REAL ESTATE PROPERTIES prime locations in Calabarzon areas only 30%DP •Bank financing scheme clean titles/good deal Call Shirley:0917-9820022; 0917-8536992 / 02-7510491

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KALOOCAN

Bungalow 1.3M 125m² 20% DP 12mo. 0% Int. 1n-Hse / Pag-ibig 983-3673 • 0919-4454781

LAS PINAS

P1M 2BR 2STRY 8054686

MALABON

Tugatog 165m² 3.5M 7227543

MAKATI

RUSH SALE! LARGE 2-BDRM w/ATTIC CARPORT, LAUNDRY 10-mins from comm'l. center ,P3.5M OBO 0917-891-1852

MARIKINA

Bnew 4BR 3TB 2.6M 9487112

PARANAQUE

19837 Oak St., Executive Vill. Sun Valley Paranaque City T-09178246244

MOLAVE PARK, MERVILLE BUNG 4BR 2TB LA192sqm FA122sqm GARDEN P2.6M 8223575 CEL 09212084861

QUEZON CITY

Filinvest 1 Batasan Hills P3.8M-6M • CP-09170997547

HOUSE & LOT

QUEZON CITY

• BNEW 4-5BR 4TB 2CG • PROJ 4,7,8, P2.7M up Terms Nr M'Danao w/ Pool P3.8M Congrsnl Btub Roofdk 6.2M Sikatuna 4CG Garden Btub Sct. Edsa 6BR 5TB Grdn 12M 371-3996 • 0917-7957850 DBO

HOUSE AND LOT 4 SALE 300 SQM 6M NEG QUEZON CITY CALL 414-5704 410-0263 / 0927-7508528

"QC nr Mindanao Ave" LA413m² FA208m² 4BR 3TB 4CAR GAR 1MD'sR w/CR P9M neg 3746731• 9292396 09193646725 • 09192434474

RUSH SALE owner leaving #13 Admirable Lane Sanville Subd 9280672 Best offer only

•Sikatuna Vil. #81 Mahiyain 9210255 9219967 9209822

RIZAL

Antipolo 648T LA36m² FA42m² DP23% 2stry 3BR 1TB 6442644 / 09198384254

Brookside Cainta 278m² 4br 2tb w/Grge 09173600948 • 09177870627

BULACAN

STA. MARIA 225T 9372088

CAVITE

AYALA WESTGROOVE PH4 BRAND NEW HOUSE 313sqm & lot 412sqm • fronting Kids Groove Clubhaus playgrnd & swimming pool. 5277616 • 0920-9503228 luk 4 Violy

LAGUNA

H&L LA=90sqm FA=36sqm Villa de Calamba Laguna T-0916-3858863 CASH ONLY T-0919-4607725 • PG50T

METROVILLE SUBD LA 122m² 2bdrms 1T&B FA61.28m² P1.2M Vic 8903461 loc 27

MILAN CAMELLA HOMES 3Stry FA210m² LA78m² P1.7M VIC 8903461 LOC 27/25

CONDO/TWNHSE

LAS PINAS

1.5m 2BR2CR W ATTIC 8259167 /9178971305 C2APRC8

EVACOM Townhomes affordavle Easy Terms Payments, accble to the airport. Contact Beth A. CP0916-8927658 Ofc #5418449

MAKATI

1.2M C5 Nr The Fort 12T/mo. or 4Yrs No Int. or 10% D.P. LIPAT AGAD 2-4BR 15min Fr Mkti 0917-8313226

1.3M Nr D Fort 2-4br RFO Bnew Comp. Amenities No DP 10T/mo 0% int 5yrs Flex Terms 0927-4630047

1M-UP nr MKTI/D'FORT Condo, H&L, Lot, Stud 5BR, RFO P8T* /MA-UP or NO DP/0%INT 10%DP MOVE-IN 0920-2601205

78sqm nr Rockwell 2BR 2TB + Pkg 09178991581

Condo nr. FORT MAKATI C5 Ortigas 2.5M 2BR 1T&B Carol • 0917-896 81 80

MAKATI Terraces Condo Davila St Makati City 42sqm P2M negotiable Contact 09178111398 and 09173042138

MKT NR AYALA BnewTwnhse/3stry/3br/2 1/2tb/grge P3.720M up 8903461 loc 34

PALM TOWER - MAKATI CENTRAL PARK - PASAY RESIDENTIAL, COMM'L & PARKG, LOOK: RUBY TEL NOS: 8112517/19 THRU: BANK/PAG-IBIG

RENT 2 OWN 10K 2br Nr Mkti 0922 8086855

RENT TO OWN CONDO 15K 2BR RFO Elaine 0927-3308614

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE OR RENT

COMMERCIAL/ RESIDENTIAL

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE OR RENT

COMMERCIAL/ RESIDENTIAL

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE OR RENT

COMMERCIAL/ RESIDENTIAL

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE OR RENT

COMMERCIAL/ RESIDENTIAL

DBH REALTY COMPANIES
LIST OF PROPERTIES FOR SALE OR FOR LEASE

	Level	Unit No.	Area	Remarks/Description
OFFICE SPACES				
RENAISSANCE 1000 (Tower D) Meralco Ave., Ortigas Center Pasig City	G/F	—	158.33	One (1) parking slot
	G/F	—	130.00	Beside of Bank of Commerce; one (1) parking slot available
	2nd Flr.	—	266.82	Three (3) parking slot
BELVEDERE TOWER San Miguel Avenue Pasig City	15th Flr.	B	210.77	One (1) parking slot
	15th Flr.	C	210.77	One (1) parking slot
	15th Flr.	D	210.77	One (1) parking slot
	Penthouse	B	308.00	Bare unit, one (1) parking slot
RESIDENTIAL UNITS				
RENAISSANCE 1000 – PENTHOUSES Meralco Avenue, Ortigas Center Pasig City	28th Flr.	2801	409.66	Three (3) levels, Living, Dining, Kitchen, mds rm, 3 BR, 3T&B, 2 PR, Attic, two (2) parking slots, cable ready
	28th Flr.	2802	409.66	Three (3) levels, Living, Dining, Kitchen, mds rm, 3 BR, 3T&B, 2 PR, Attic, two (2) parking slots, cable ready
	28th Flr.	2804	409.66	Three (3) levels, Living, Dining, Kitchen, mds rm, 3 BR, 3T&B, 2 PR, Attic, two (2) parking slots, cable ready
RENAISSANCE 3000 Meralco Avenue, Ortigas Center Pasig City	A	102	289.05	3 BR, 3 T&B, 1 PR, 2 parking slots, mds rm., terrace
	B	601	233.99	3 BR, 3 T&B, 1 PR, 2 parking slots, mds rm., utility rm.
	A	2306	106.62	1 BR, 2T&B, 1 parking slot, utility rm.
	A	2403	134.86	2 BR, 3 T&B, 1 PR, 1 parking slot, mds. rm., utility rm.
	B	2602	239.82	2 BR, 3 T&B, 1 PR, 1 parking slot, mds. rm., utility rm., terrace
	B	2803	188.91	2 BR, 3 T&B, 1 PR, 1 parking slot, mds. rm., utility rm., terrace
	A	2804	198.80	2 BR, 3 T&B, 1 PR, 1 parking slot, mds. rm., utility rm., terrace
	A	PH02	556.35	2 level, 3 BR, 3T&B, 1 PR, 2 parking slots, mds. rm., utility, terrace

For Inquiries: You may contact Ms. Liza Aquino at tel. no. 633-2148 (DL) or 633-7361 loc. 109 and Ms. Kerr Zurita at tel. no. 635-6991 (DL) or 633-7361 local 164.

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDO/TWNHSE

MANILA

Bnew Thses nr DLSU-Taft Ave LA42-48Sm 1-2Car P4.2M UP 562-3531/0917-5272166

INVESTMENT PROP - Nr UST 250 sqm 5 Drs 8M 6341212

MALATE MALATE CONDO FA36m²-1BR Units 4YTP 0% 3746731 * 09192434474

MANDALUYONG

CITYLAND SHAW 1BR FRONT SHANG P2.1M 09175213838

CONDO,BNEW, RFO 09192189817

PASIG

25m² ofc Mega Plaza Ortigas Furn 6873372 0917-8102903

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CONDO nr. Fort & Makati
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QUEZON CITY

142sqm DON ANTONIO HTS 3BR2TB 2PKG 09178991581

2sty B/nw 7units 3BR3TB 2CG 4.9-5.3M 159 Sct. Limbaga Ext. 4388754 09228530530

ALPHA VICTORIA NEW MLA LA116 FA236 8M 634-1212

CUBAO P1.5M Flexible Terms Offsetting OK 09178348080

Loyola Gr Villas nr Ateneo cor Unit with pool bsktbll crt garden gazebo 3br3tb mdsrm 2cargar 5Mneg Gula 4349699

Luxurious Low 500T-12M Furn 9415641/0927-3925928

P2.8Mup RFO nr QC Hall DAR Veterans Hosp 5units avlb DBO 4550724 : 09274198270

RUSH SALE owner leaving 1 Condo Unit 2BR fully furnished w/parking Panay Ave. QC 2.6M (neg) 0920-9088059

SCT TUAZON 2.3M 4163161

SAN JUAN

Beautiful Penthse 255m² + Park + R'deck 3BR 4TB Exclnt loc. GHills Avail. for Urgent Sale P13M Call 2977534

G'HILLS 1BR 09163173197

OTHER PROVINCIAL

Agricultural Residential Lot LA 54.431sqms Along Provincial Road Brgy Agutayan Municipality of Sta. Barbara, Iloilo City; Selling Price P2,187,000.00 For Inquiries, please call: 8119797 Hotline

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDO/TWNHSE

TAGUIG

PACIFIC TWR 23m² Rush! w/income embasy 09189392979

LOT

KALOOCAN

Rainbow Village 5 LA 216m² P3,473/m² Vic 8903461 loc 25

VILLA ANGELICA LA279m² FA157m² 4br 3tb P1.7M Vic 8903461 loc 27

LAS PINAS

Citadella 200m² 7500/m² Morning Sun Call 750-2413

MALABON

Tenjeros nr market 400m² @7,500T/m² 0917-8997547

MAKATI

27 Tampingco San Lorenzo
468 Sqm P20.5 MM
29 Tampingco San Lorenzo
562 Sqm P24.5 MM
Miramar 8171589/91/94

McKinley Hills Global City P10M 634-1212

PARANAQUE

3,785m² Edison St., Pque Nr Astra Precy 631-2522 / 23

PASIG

METROVILLE SUBD LA333m² P4,054/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

QUEZON CITY

Exclusive Res'l Lot
nr Ateneo/UP/Miriam
204m²@P8.5th 09189235216

KATIPUNAN EXT COM'L
beside future Kenny Rogers
1,100m² & 451m²@P9.5th/m²
454-5667 / 0918- 9235216

Rd 20 Proj. 8, 1,418m²@ P14T/m² Proj 6 nr SM Nrth 267m²@3.6M Cong. Ave Ext. 451m²/412m²@9T/m² DBO. 0917-8997547 Jona

OTHER AREAS

TOWN & COUNTRY HILLS LA240m² P3,125/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

OTHER PROVINCIAL

LA RESIDENCIA DE BACOOR 172 SQM 8T/M² (0917) 8996019

BATANGAS

(12)400-700M² LOT IN SANTOMAS 30MSOUTH OF ALABANG NICE VW 1KM FR HWY P775M² CASH / TERMS TEX09184204333/T0437785373

RANCHO VISTA SUBD LA613m2 P2,284/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

LOT

BULACAN

126sq.m MeyC 09179217727

SAN MIGUEL BUL 4000m² P165/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

CAVITE

DON BOSCO EXEC HTS LA128m2 P2.900/m2 Vic 8903461 loc 27

Wedgewood Lot Beth 809-3531

PARKPLACE SUBD LA149.30m² P6,028/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

PARKPLACE SUBD LA120m² P5,750/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

ST. CHARBEL DASMA nr SM 371m² P2.650/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

CAMELLA HOMES BACOOR LA137m² FA198.90m² 5br P1.7M Vic 8903461 loc 27

LAGUNA

548sqm West Grove Ayala Sta Rosa Jun 0917-7182116

SOUTH PEAK P5,000/m2 LA240m2 Vic 8903461 loc 25/27

VARIED AREAS

BALIWAG 320m² rel lot
CALOOCAN 3lots 2000m²
Each Separately Titled
6000m² total agri lot
Make Offer (02)9309760

FARM/FISHPEN/ RAWLANDS

AGRI LAND TAGAYTAY CITY AREA: 11,445SQM CONTACT (046)4133919 / (0919)2458360

SAN MIGUEL BUL 4000m² P165/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

COMMERCIAL

QUEZON CITY

59West Av 780m² 120T 09209034812

HOUSE

MANDALUYONG

Nr. Boni 3BR 2TB 2CG 1Mds Rm FF 25Tneg 0918-9421534

PARANAQUE

HSE NR SM BCTAN 5BR 3TB 19T/MO. 09178571089 BONG

QUEZON CITY

2BR nr FEU Hosp 9T 9316151

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

HOUSE

2BR w/grge 12Zinnia Roxas Dist. 9.5 /mo 931-5151 0917-8514724

6BR 3TB 43Malboro Fview 25T 931-5151 0917-8514724

BUNG 2BR Proj 8 QC 9204779

Horseshoe QC 443sqm 5br 2Lvngrms 6Car Grge 687-2161 / 63 Marissa

LAGUNA

3B 2T/B SJ AYL 09192064003

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

2B 1T/B Guad 0919-2064003

MAKATI-Legaspi Vill 2BR W/ Pkg unf 15T+ T-09167855507

NEW STUDIO / Coml / 2BR 6.5Tup 1672 Dian St. Mktl 843-9418•0918 9390355 Rose

MANILA

1BRROBINSON FAURA 5642622

ASTRAL TOWER front PGH 1BR P17T/mo. 0921-5046978

MUNTINLUPA

3B 2TB MATCOR 09192064003

PARANAQUE

ROXAS BLVD BAYVIEW INTL 3BR Furn 35T T-0916-785-5507

PASIG

RENAISSANCE 0918-3975650

QUEZON CITY

GOLF HILL TERRACES RENT 33SQM STUDIO TYPE 7433121 7431977 OFF HRS

GOLF HILL TERRACES SALE: ASS LOAN STUDIO TYPE 7433121 GEM

BRAND NEW 3BR maids rm 3TB 116sqm 1st St. cor. #8 Gilmore Ave. New Mla. QC 28K Violy/Tintin 5277616

NEW MLA 2BR P18t/mo w/prkg 700-1393/7226578

APARTMENT

MAKATI

2BR up/down stng H²0 near City Hall P8.5K onth call 7577442

MANILA

2br w/grg Sta Mesa 7142154

561-0960 0920-4136412 AJ 5,500 - 7,000 New Built House

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

APARTMENT

QUEZON CITY

34 YALE CUBAO 9310449

76-C Oxford Cubao 9130841

7T scmd Fams Rd Proj8- 9262180

SAN JUAN

A.LUNA ST 2story spacious P9T/mo good loc'n 6461603

WAREHOUSE/ FACTORY

BICUTAN OFFICE WAREHOUSE 700 SQM P65K 8473472/71

ROOM & BOARD

BF Sucat Pque 8275345

•FURNISH PASAY 8872865•

Kamias Rd 350/day FF 4368050

Kamias Rd 3.6T Nice 4368050

MKTI W/ AIRCON 8709457

Mla, Daily, Wkly 7118679

Pasig Rm P3,500 09195674519

BEDSPACE

MKTI AIRCON M 2T 8709999

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MITSUBISHI

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02 ADV SS M/T LD 490T 7247459

03Lncr Invecell 480T 7211677

03'S LCER GLX A/T 475T 7247459

TOYOTA

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01REVO GSX A/T 490T 7211877

'03 Prado 2.1M 0917-9526371

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Sale/Rental/Servce 8014494

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EDUC PALN 2528373/2557990

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BOXER M/F 7-12mos. 10T 4571410

Doberman Pups 8Wks F-7.5 M-7 PCCI Reg. Grandparents Champ 6716014

Dog Trainer 0919-2050952

LAB CHAMPLINE 4114631

•LABRADOR Choco 3½mos• Fem 12T neg 0920-4040851

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MINI-SCHNAUZERS 3MON 1ST USline P40K PCCI 09215774949

PUG PUPS Male 15T
• 09177930213 / 6741366 •

•PUGS•WRINKLED 3725231

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ANNOUNCEMENT

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the ESTATE OF the late CANDIDO GARCIA SALVADOR was extrajudicially settled among her heirs by means of public instruments, duly authenticated by Consulate General of the Republic of the Philippines, VICE-CONSUL NOEMI T. DIAZ, in City of Los Angeles, State of California, USA, under Doc. No. 13543, Series of 2004; AND by public instruments, duly notarized as per Doc. No. 3, Page No. 2, Book No. 1, Series of 2004 NOTARY PUBLIC DANIEL GRANADOS DATUIN.
(PDI-Jan. 16, 23 & 30, 2005)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late BENJAMIN ANTONIO and ESTEFANIA ANTONIO was settled by their heirs through an extrajudicial partition acknowledged before Notary Public Allan A. Pasamonte for and in the City of Manila as per Doc No. 286 on Page 59; Book 4; Series of 2004 of his Notarial Register
(PDI-January 16, 23 & 30, 2005)

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WANTED TO BUY

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SUNDAY, JANUARY 16, 2005

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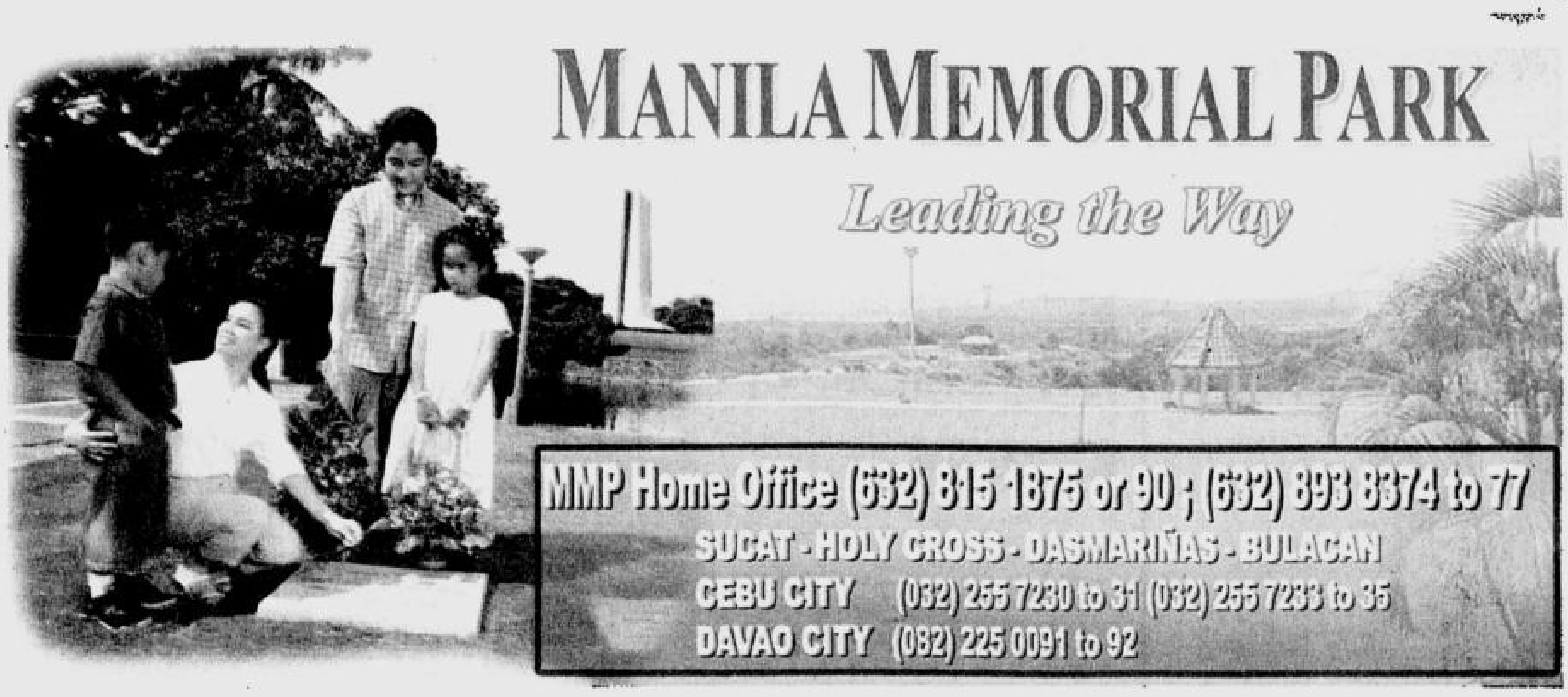
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Our Dearly Beloved

Santiago "Tiaging" Alumisin, Jr.

Peacefully joined our Lord
on January 14, 2005 at the age of 70.

His bereaved wife **Luzviminda**; children **Chris, Gladys, Daphne, Garrick** and **Winston**; in-laws and grandchildren request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Loyola Chapels, Guadalupe and Interment will be on Tuesday, January 18, 2005 at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina, after the 8.00 a.m. Mass.

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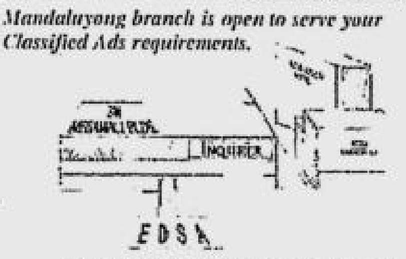

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Los desconsolados hijos, 33 nietos, hermanas y cuñados de

TERESA (TITA) ASPILLERA–DIAZ

José y Naty, Ramon y Silvana, Ruby y Buddy Roa, Benjie y Lloyd Deverall, Georgie y William Balliett, Patsy y Antonio Tan, Aurora y Robert Wilson, (Rio †) y Charlie Cojuangco, Didit, Coroy, Glory, Mike é Isabel;

las hermanas Dolly Arboleda y Gloria Quintos y los cuñados Arsenio Topacio y Solita Aspillera

piden oraciones para la finada.

Sus cenizas estaràn en la capilla de Don Bosco, Makati hasta el martes, 18 de enero después de la misa a las 9:00 a.m.

Safely Home

"I am home in heaven, dear ones;
Oh so happy and so bright!
There is perfect joy and beauty
In this everlasting light.
I am now at peace forever,
Safely home in heaven at last."

JOHN XAVIER LOPEZ YU

May 19, 1985 - January 14, 2005

*His loving parents **Peter** and **Bibi**; sister **Andrea**; brother **Kevin**; Yaya **Ofelia**; grandparents **Angkong Ramon**, **Amah Ana**, **Lolo Pete** (†) and **Lola Sonnie**, uncles, aunties, cousins, niece and other relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.*

His remains lie in state at Holy Trinity Chapel, Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, January 19, 2005 after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City.

"For God
so loved
the world,
that He
gave His
only
begotten
Son, that
whoever
believes in
Him shall
not perish
but have
everlasting
life."
John 3:16

Our Dearly Beloved

COL. JUANA C. RAÑADA

Ret. – PC; Decorated World War II Veteran
St. Lukes School of Nursing Alumnus – 1930

Now peacefully rests in the infinite grace & goodness of the Lord on the 10th day of January 2005 at the age of 96.

She is survived by her sister, **Ignacia R. Cajigal**; brother, **Dr. Marcelino C. Rañada**; daughter, **Dr. Araceli R. Dantes** and husband **Dr. Pablito Dantes**; nephews, nieces and grandchildren.

We request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body will lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, Araneta Ave., Q.C. from Jan. 17–20, and at the AFP Medical Center Chapel, V. Luna Q.C. on Jan. 21, 2005. Necrological services will be held after the 5 p.m. Mass on Friday, Jan. 21, 2005.

Interment will be on Saturday, January 22, 2005 at the Libingan Ng Mga Bayani, Fort Bonifacio, Makati following the 8 a.m. Mass.

IN LOVING MEMORY
on the 1st DEATH Anniversary of

AUGUSTO MA. "Toti" R. CINCO Jr.

His beloved Wife, Children, Brothers and Sisters. Again wish to express sincere thanks and gratitude to our relatives and friends for their love, sympathy and support during our time of grief and sorrow on his untimely demised last Jan 19, 2004.

We request the pious reader to pray for his soul.
Masses will be offered everyday from January 11 to 19, 2005.

Immaculate Concepcion Parish Church
Cubao, Quezon City (7:00 am)

Sacred Heart Parish Church
Kamuning, Quezon City

St. Joseph Quasi Parish Church
St. Francis Homes, Meycauayan, Bulacan (6:00 am)

"...absent from the body to be present with the Lord."

Card of Thanks

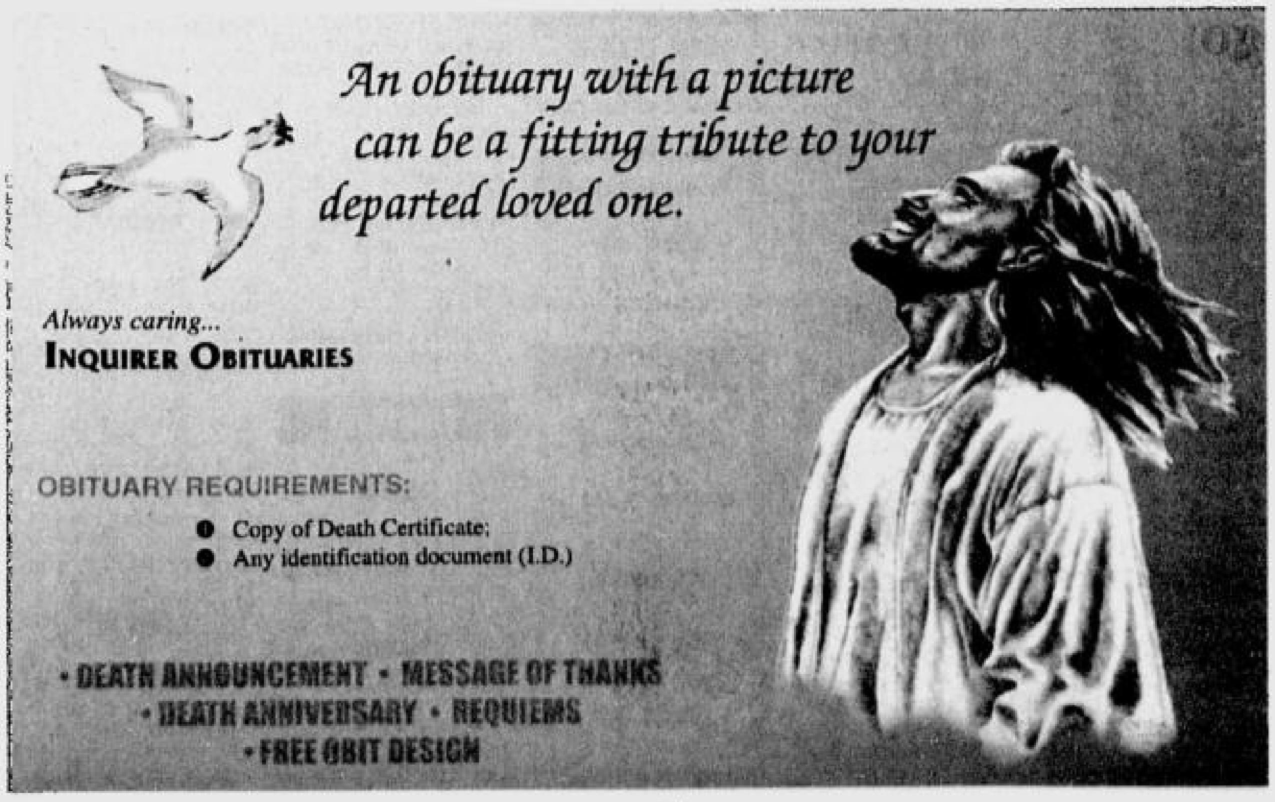
Gerry Hizon Rodriguez

Papal Awardee, Knight of St. Sylvester

25 November 1922 -- 05 January 2005

We, **Rolly** and **Ana Fernandez, Des** and **Louie Torres,** and our children wish to express to Papa's nephews and nieces, close relatives, and friends our deepest appreciation of their generous support, concern, and love, in constant anticipation of our needs during his last days and in our time of bereavement.

We also thank all who kept vigil and offered prayers and condolences.


An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

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INQUIRER OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
- Copy of Death Certificate;
- Any identification document (I.D.)

• DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT • MESSAGE OF THANKS
• DEATH ANNIVERSARY • REQUIEMS
• FREE OBIT DESIGN

OBITUARIES

MESSAGE OF THANKS

We, the family of the late

ARACELI VIBAR AZUL

who passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on December 20, 2004

wish to express our heartfelt gratitude and sincerest appreciation to all those who offered Masses and prayers, sent flowers, and messages of sympathy, and who, in countless ways, condoled with and comforted us in our hour of bereavement.

Atty. Rustico E. Reyes

Former Barangay Chairman of Bangkal, Makati (1968-88)

Passed away on January 9, 2005
at Vallejo, California, USA.

We wish to inform relatives, friends, political collegues and constituents that his body will arrive on **January 16, 2005 morning.**

Wake will be at St. John Bosco Parish-Faith Chapel
(Arnaiz Avenue corner Amorsolo St., Makati City
Telephone: 894-5932 local 26)

Eulogy will be on Monday, January 17, 2005 at 8:00 p.m.
Interment will be at Manila Memorial Park on
January 18, 2005 at 3:00 p.m.
For details, please call Dr. Reyes
at 242-3746, 231-8623 and 0920-911-6756

In Loving Memory of

Milagros Pelayo Irasga

on the **First Anniversary** of her Death
(January 16, 2004)

The family requests her relatives and friends to offer prayers for the eternal peace of her soul.

Scheduled Masses are offered at the following Churches:

Jesus the Divine Healer Parish Tahanan Village, Parañaque	6:00 AM, 9:00 AM 6:00 PM, 7:15 PM
Our Lady of Grace Parish Ireneville I, Parañaque	6:00 AM
Our Lady of the Pillar Church Las Piñas	6:00 AM, 9:00 AM 8:30 PM
Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal National Shrine Parish, Posadas, Parañaque	9:00 AM
National Shrine of Mary Help of Christians Parish, Better Living Subd., Parañaque	10:00 AM
Sto. Niño de Paz Greenbelt Chapel Makati	12:00 NN
San Antonio de Padua Parish SAV, Parañaque	4:00 PM
Presentation of the Child Jesus BF Homes, Parañaque	5:00 PM
Don Bosco Church Makati	7:00 PM
Parish of the Resurrection BF Homes, Parañaque	8:00 PM

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OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

• DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT • MESSAGE OF THANKS
• DEATH ANNIVERSARY • REQUIEMS

CLASSIFIEDS

Republic of the Philippines
Office of the President
Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council
HOUSING AND LAND USE REGULATORY BOARD

Board of Commissioners
BOARD RESOLUTION NO. 772
Series of 2004

APPROVING THE ACCREDITATION OF PAG-IBIG HOUSING BONDS AS AN ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT OF SUBDIVISION OWNER/DEVELOPER IN COMPLIANCE TO THE TWENTY PERCENT (20%) SOCIALIZED HOUSING DEVELOPMENT REQUIREMENT UNDER SECTION 18 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7279.

WHEREAS, the Board to further encourage the production of socialized as well as open market housing continually strives to find means by which the private sector could, in accordance with the law, comply with the twenty percent (20%) balanced housing development requirement under Section 18 of Republic Act No. 7279, otherwise known as the Urban Development and Housing Act (UDHA) of 1992;

WHEREAS, THE Department of Justice, issued an opinion finding no legal objection to the proposed inclusion of the purchase of socialized housing bonds to be floated by local government units or any housing agency as one of the modes of compliance to the socialized housing requirement, the same being germane to the objects and purpose of the law and within the scope of the term *joint venture* as defined in the same law;

WHEREFORE, be it resolved as it is hereby resolved that request for the accreditation of the Pag-IBIG Housing Bonds, Series 2004 and 2005 of the Home Development Mutual Fund as alternative investment of subdivision owner/developer in compliance to the twenty percent (20%) socialized housing development requirement under Section 18 of Republic Act 7279 be approved as it is hereby approved.

APPROVED, 08 November 2004, Quezon City, Metro Manila.

THE HONORABLE NOLI L. DE CASTRO
Vice President of the Philippines
& HUDCC Chairman

RAMON J. LIWAG
Undersecretary, DOJ
Ex-Officio Commissioner

ROMULO Q. FABUL
Chief Executive Officer
and Commissioner

EDUARDO R. SOLIMAN, JR.
Undersecretary, DILG
Ex-Officio Commissioner

TERESITA A. DESIERTO
Commissioner

AUGUSTO B. SANTOS
Deputy Director General, NEDA
Ex-Officio Commissioner

FRANCISCO L. DAGÑALAN
Commissioner

JOEL I. JACOB
DPWH
Ex-Officio Commissioner

JESUS YAP PANG
Commissioner

Attested by:

CHARITO B. LANSANG
Board Secretary

(PDI – January 16, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
Bids and Awards Committee
Division of Apayao

Invitation for Bids (IFB)
APY-DO-01-2005

January 16, 2005

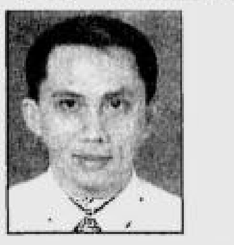
To All Qualified Bidders:

1. The Government of the Republic of the Philippines has received a loan from the *Japan Bank for International Cooperation* towards the cost of financing the Third Elementary Education Project (TEEP) and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments for civil works component of the project. Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the *Guidelines for Procurement under Japan* Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) *Loans.*
2. The Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the **Construction of One (1) Unit - Two (2) Storey Division Office of Apayao.**
3. Bidding documents may be purchased at the **Division Office of Apayao** with address at **Luna, Apayao** from **January 19 – February 15, 2005** for a nonrefundable fee of Php 2,000.00 for each set. Interested bidders may obtain further information at the same address.
4. Bids shall be valid for a period of ninety (90) days after Bid opening and must be accompanied by a security in the amount of two **and half percent (2.5%)** of total bid price, and shall be delivered to the **Bids and Awards Committee, Department of Education – Division of Apayao** on or before ***10:00 o'clock A.M. on February 16, 2005,*** at which time they will be opened in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend.
5. All interested bidders were invited for a Pre-bid conference to be held on **January 31, 2005 at 10:00 o'clock A.M. in the Division Office of Ayapao, Luna, Apayao.**

(Sgd.) **VICTORINO G. AGMATA**
Chairperson, Bids and Awards Committee
Department of Education, Division of Apayao

(PDI--Jan. 16, 2005)

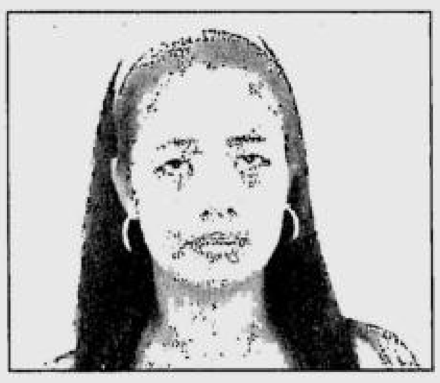
NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



Please be informed that **Mr. RANULFO "Ranny" ANDAS** whose picture appears above is no longer connected **with Wide Wide World Express Corporation (WWW Express)** since October 20, 2004. Any transaction entered into by Mr. Andas for and in behalf of the company after the said date will not be honored.

(PDI - Jan. 16, 2005)

MISSING



REWARD will be given
to anyone who can give information as to the whereabouts of the above person known as **MARIVIC S. YU** or **BUENA TALA MACAREAG.**
If you have any information leading to the whereabouts of said person, please contact 0916-6082088 or 0917-6202350 or tel. no. 899-3487.
Information received will be treated with utmost confidentiality.

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
BUREAU OF INTERNATIONAL HEALTH COOPERATION
Bldg. No. 3 1st Floor, San Lazaro Compound, Rizal Avenue, Sta. Cruz, Manila 1003
Telefax No. 711-95-82, Tel Nos. 781-88-43, 743-83-01 local 1310, 1311, 1304
e-mail address: bihc@doh.gov.ph; website: omega.doh.gov.ph/bihc

11 January 2005

NOTICE

The Department of Health under the Early Childhood Development Project-Department of Health (ECDP-DOH) Component is in need of consultant (individual) to provide technical assistance in the implementation of the Project's Expanded Program on Immunization and IMCI component:

1. Training Coordinator (1)

Interested individuals may get a copy of the Terms of Reference from the Department of Health-Early Childhood Development Project, Ground Floor, Bldg. 3, San Lazaro Compound, Rizal Avenue, Sta. Cruz, Manila. Letters of interest with curriculum vitae and salary history must be submitted on or before **January 21, 2005** to the undersigned at the address below:

Bureau of International Health Cooperation
Department of Health
G/F Building 3, San Lazaro Compound
Rizal Avenue, Sta. Cruz, Manila

Should there be further inquiries, you may contact Ms. Cecilia C. Hernandez, Executive Assistant, Early Childhood Development Project at (02)338-6516 and 743-8301 loc. 1343.

(Sgd.) **MA. VIRGINIA GUZMAN-ALA, MD, MPH**
Officer-in-Charge

(PDI – January 16, 2005)

NFA rice dispersal part of governments food security

THE NATIONAL Food Authority continuously conducts rice dispersal operations between regions and provinces to augment supplies in deficit areas and effectively maintain the government's food security stocks anywhere in the country. NFA Administrator Gregorio Y. Tan Jr. said this operational plan is set in place on a year-round basis, including holidays if needed. Tan added that even during the Holy Week or Christmas, NFA personnel are required to provide services to ensure that there is enough rice supply in any part of the country by undertaking dispersal and distribution operations. He said that NFA Management immediately authorizes rice dispersal operations whenever its field offices request for augmentation of their respective stocks in order to prevent a situation where the NFA may be caught flatfooted by the occurrence of calamities that may hit any part of the country at any given time.

Tan emphasized that despite the additional transport and handling costs in transferring the agency's rice stocks between regions and provinces, the agency sells the commodity at a uniform price of P16/kg for regular-milled rice (RMR) and P18/kg for well-milled rice (WMR) in order to stabilize prices nationwide in consonance with its food security mandate. For comments, suggestions or complaints regarding NFA operations, the public may send text messages to Text-NFA at 0917-6210927.

Irma Potenciano performs at Philamlife

NOTED soprano Irma Ponce Enrile-Potenciano will give a voice recital entitled "Irma....larawan ng isang maestra", at the Philamlife Auditorium on Jan. 18, at 7:30 p.m. Brought by the University of Sto. Tomas, the concert is intended to raise funds for the various cultural projects of the Music Faculty Club. Repertoire includes songs from Mascagni's "La Mico Fritz", & "Cavalleria Rusticana", Mozart's "Magic Flute", Bizet's "Carmen", and Filipino folk songs such as Peña's "Iyo Pa Man", "Ako'y isang Paru-paro from "Walang Sugat", "Kay Tamis ng Buhay" and "Lupang Pangako" from "Noli Me Tangere", Cuenco's "Kundiman '86", "Hangin" & "Kayamanan", Peña's "Sa Batis ng Ligaya", Abelardo's "Bituing Marikit", Velez's "Sa Kabukiran", Umali's "Ang Pag-Ibig Mo", San Pedro's "Diwata ng Pag-Ibig" and Villaflor's "Pobreng Alindahaw". Potenciano will be joined by the faculty members of the UST Conservatory of Music namely, Thea Perez (soprano), Nenen Espina (soprano), Patris Pacis (soprano), Randy Gilongo (tenor), Ronan Ferrer (tenor), Jun Francis Jaranilla (bass baritone), Peter Porticos (piano) and Jonathan Coo (piano). A veteran of opera and concert stage, Ms. Potenciano has sung lead roles in numerous operas, zarzuelas, variety shows, radio and TV shows. Tickets are: P500/300/150. For more information and tickets, please call the UST Conservatory of Music at 731-4022.

PRIVATIZATION AND MANAGEMENT OFFICE
INVITATION TO BID

The Privatization and Management Office (PMO) is offering for public bidding, on an "as-is, where-is" basis, the following asset formerly belonging to Carruf Development Corporation, as follows:

Description	Indicative Price
Land, 1,504 sq.m. located along Maytubig St., Brgy. 710, Zone 78 Malate, Manila	P 24,816,000

Sealed bids will be received on 1 February 2005, at 3:00 p.m. at the PMO Conference Room, 6th floor, Privatization and Management Office, 104 Gamboa St., Legaspi Village, Makati City.

Interested parties are advised to deal directly with the PMO Marketing Department. Authenticated bidding documents, together with the Asset Specific Catalogue, may be secured from PMO for a nominal fee of P500.00.

For inquiries, please contact Ms. Maureen B. Valiente at telephone numbers 817-8762 or 892-2145.

(PDI--Jan. 14, 15 & 16, 2005)

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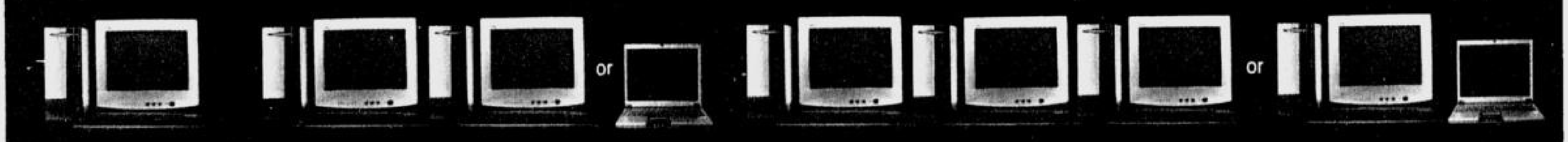

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Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

Discover gold.
Chocolate Sylvanas
Gold

MARTHA'S VINEYARD, Massachusetts: In 1979, Mrs. Onassis bought this large undeveloped property overlooking the Atlantic Ocean and built what was to become a summer retreat for friends and family. The house was inspired by New England seaside cottages with most of the major rooms of the ground floor open to the ocean. The comfortable New England country décor was complemented by an Audubon print collection of birds native to Martha's Vineyard and artwork of marine subjects.

BLUE White House: The late 19th century Victorian mahogany and upholstered chaise lounge with an asymmetrical backrest (lot 372; $400-600) was once in Mrs Kennedy's dressing room in the White House.

Want a piece of Camelot?

Kennedy home items and memorabilia are up for auction next month

By Kitty Go
Contributor

SOTHEBY'S will be auctioning on Feb. 15-17 over 600 lots from the Kennedy family homes in its New York sale room. Items from the family's Hyannis Port, Martha's Vineyard, New Jersey, New York and Virginia homes are expected to yield over $1 million, a portion of which will go to the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation and other charities.

The property is consigned by Caroline Kennedy, who has already given anything of historical significance to the JKK Library and has kept the items she holds most dear for herself and her children.

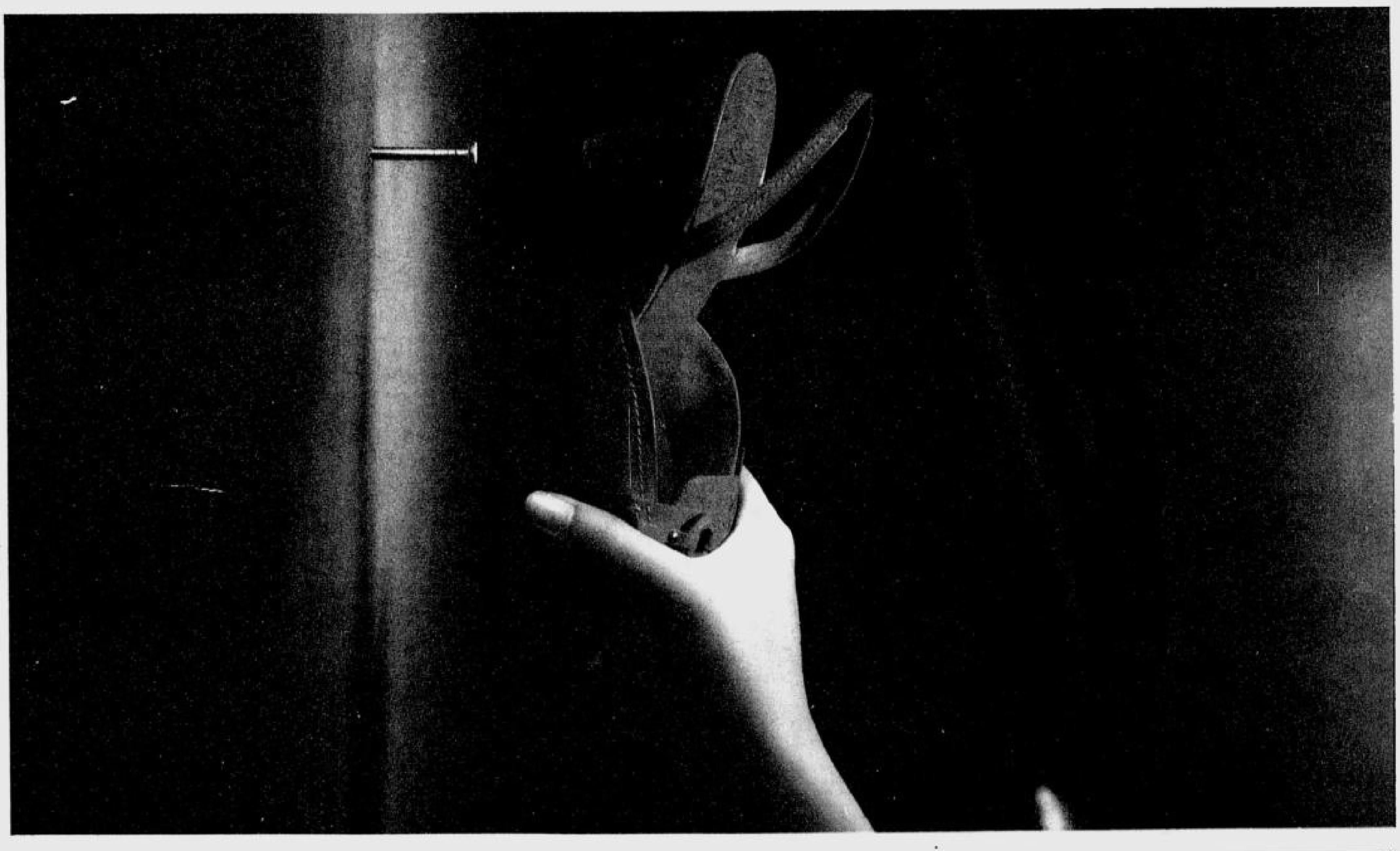
"After my mother died in 1994, my brother and I were faced with the task of deciding what to do with her possessions," she writes in the catalogue's introduction, "And after careful consideration, we sold some of them

WANT/ C2

KENNEDY FAMILY HOMES

SOTHEBY'S catalogue cover shows John and Jackie Kennedy in Hyannis Port, Massachusetts. July 1953 photo by Hy Peskin, Getty Images

SUZETTE ARRIESGADO DIDN'T WORRY ABOUT THE PRICE TAG.



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1. Visit *www.hbimasia.com/visa*
2. Call 637 2768 (M.M.) or toll-free 1 800 1888 2591 (Outside M.M.)
3. Text VISA followed by your name on card,issuing bank,last 4 digits of account number,amount of transaction,date of transaction,time of transaction on transaction slip (No space after each comma. Amounts ₱1000 and up should be written without a comma or a peso sign). Send to 2989 for Smart and Globe, Ex: VISA MENNIE SO,AIG,1234,1000.25,102404,1808

The last bi-monthly draw happens on January 24, 2005.

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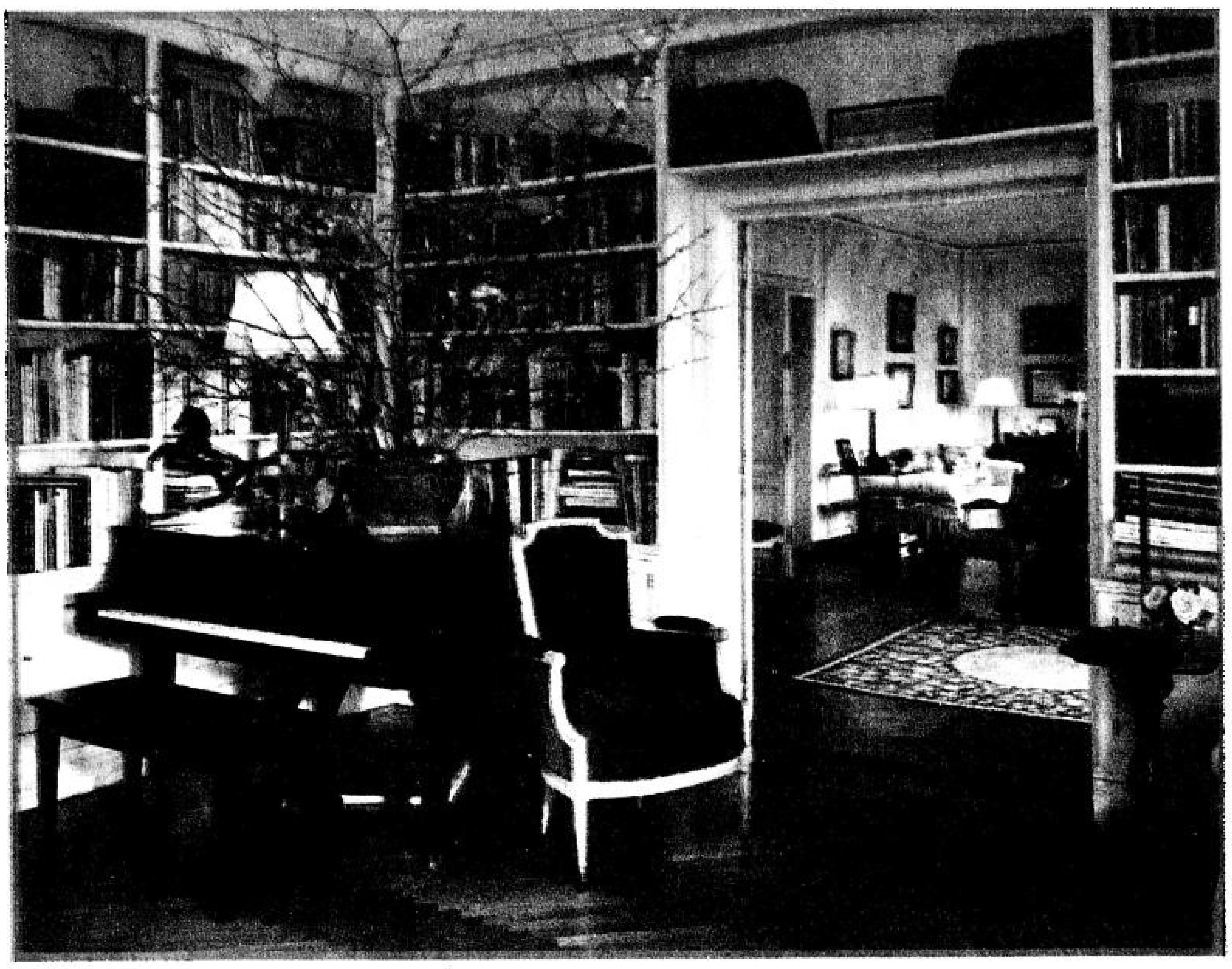
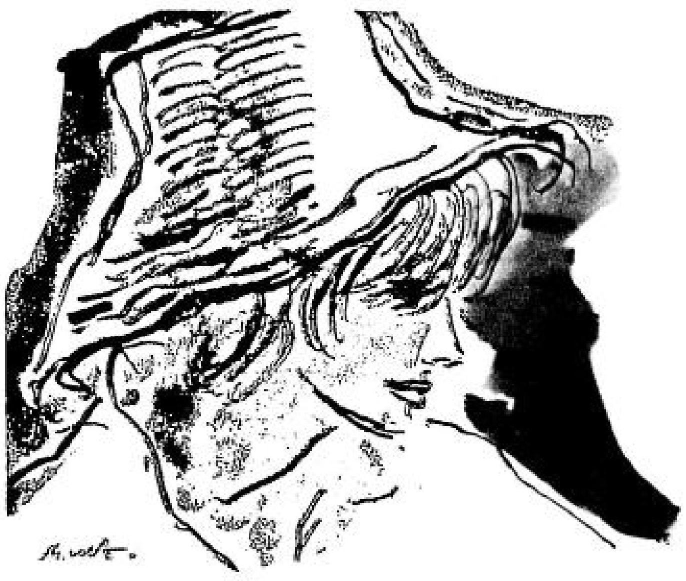
VISA
All it takes.



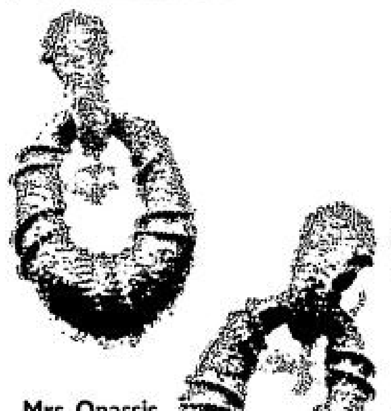
NEW YORK: For over 30 years, Mrs. Onassis lived at the corner of Fifth Avenue and 85th in the Upper East Side in a building that was one of the city's most luxurious in the '20s and '30s. Mrs. O owned a unit with five large principal rooms (the living room, dining room and master bedroom looked out to the Central Park Reservoir), five large bedrooms, three fireplaces and generous staff quarters. Her love for France is evident in the décor of her New York apartment—French fabrics, paneling and furniture—which was sophisticated and refined but informal, relaxed and inviting.



PORTRAIT of Jackie in a straw hat by Franz Bueb (lot 331, est. $2-3,000)

FATHER & SON. John F. Kennedy and John Jr. in a rowboat, photo circa 1962 (lot 671, est. $200-250)

Want a piece of Camelot?



Mrs. Onassis owned a lot of jewelry from Van Cleef and Arpels such as this pair of earrings in lapis lazuli (lot 657,$3-5,000). A lot of her jewelry came from Aristotle Onassis who patronized VCA and Cartier, but throughout her life Mrs. Onassis was hardly ever seen without a set of pearls, most of them costume. A set of faux pearls (lot 653, $400-500) is on the block but the price can be deceiving. In the 1996 sale of her property, a Kenneth Jay Lane simulated pearl necklace which Mrs. Onassis paid a mere $200 for was sold to the Franklin Mint for $200,000.

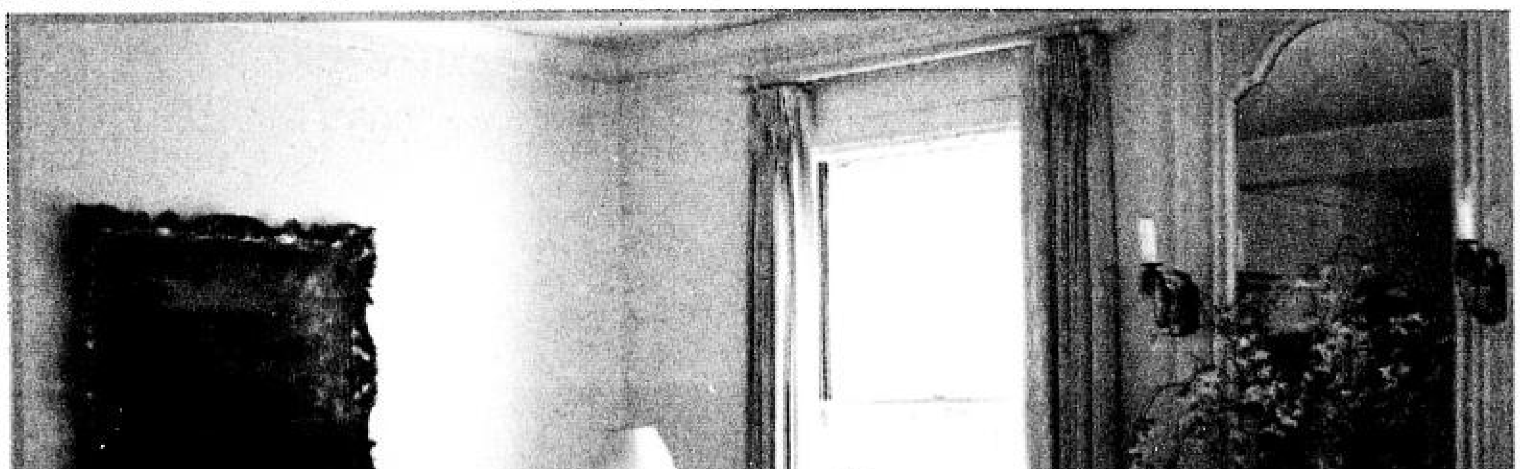
From page C1

in 1996. In the intervening years and the death of my brother, I found myself again with more houses and belongings than I could possibly use or enjoy… I hope these objects, books and furniture will bring a new set of memories as they find new homes, and I hope those memories are as happy as my own."

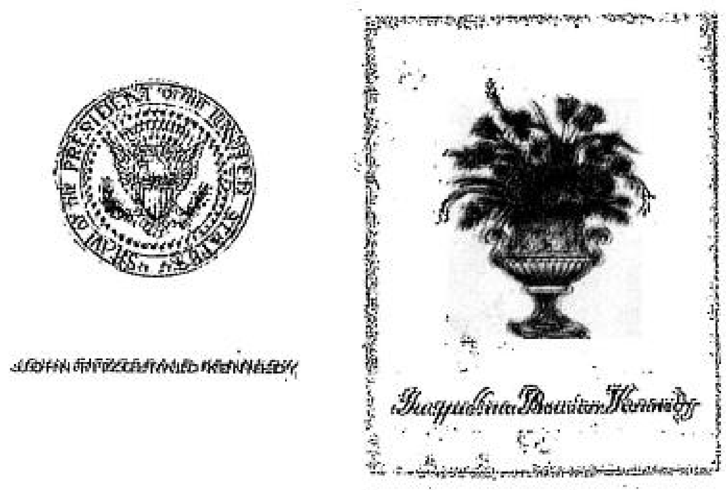
The 380-page catalogue is practically a personal chronicle of a gracious and privileged life—never before seen photographs of their home, everyday knick-knacks, lived-in furniture, family photographs, paintings, books, jewelry and even Mrs. Onassis' monogrammed horse blankets and show trunks and luggage, including Louis Vuitton suitcases estimated at $75 to $200 (lots 575 to 577; what would those who paid full price say?).

Catalogues are available for purchase at www.sothebys.com or by calling (212) 894-1399. The price is $50 plus shipping and handling.

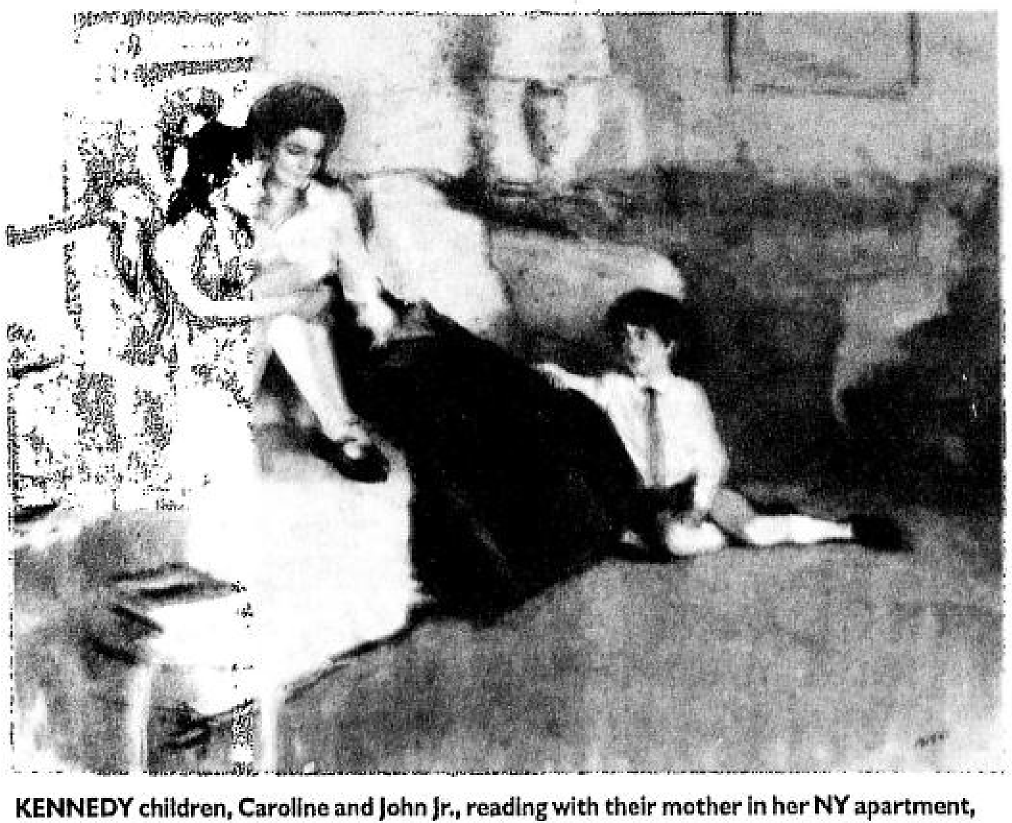
E-mail the author at: kittygo_pdi@yahoo.com.



PEAPACK, New Jersey: Mrs Kennedy began to spend weekends with her children sometime in 1965 at this converted barn in the heart of New Jersey hunt country. She started by renting and eventually bought this house which was ideal for riding and fox hunting. An avid horsewoman, she joined a prestigious and historical hunt club, Essex Fox Hounds. The house centered on a main living and dining room but also had a library with floor to ceiling bookcases, several bedrooms and a tack room off the kitchen. Decorated in traditional English style using floral chintz curtains and upholstery, Old Master paintings and wooden country furniture, this house was the setting for many Thanksgiving and birthday celebrations.

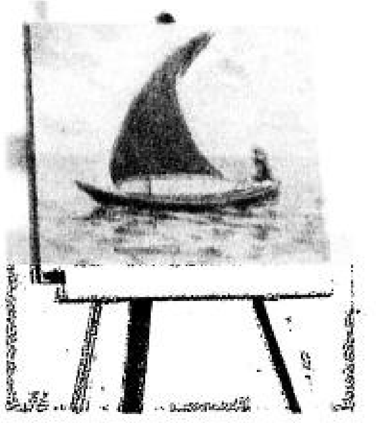


BOOKPLATES. Presidential bookplate of John Fitzgerald Kennedy and bookplate of Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy,



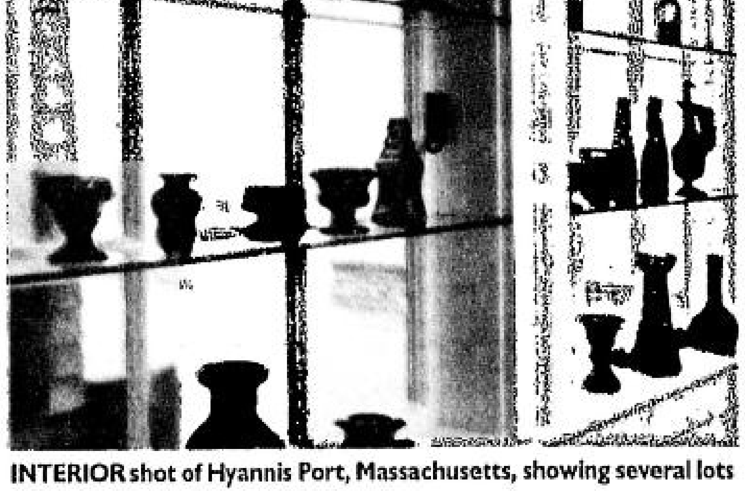
KENNEDY children, Caroline and John Jr., reading with their mother in her NY apartment, portrait by Aaron Shikler (lot 569, $8-12,000), who also painted Kennedy's official White House portrait and many more in later years.

STYLISH FIRST LADY. Cartier black velvet, diamond, coral and emerald purse (lot 656, est. $3-4,000)



JACKIE O on sailboat (lot 165, est. $3-5,000) also by Shikler

ENGLISH soup tureen, part of ironstone wares (lot 179, est. $200-300) and JBK monogrammed pale blue napkin from set of 11 (lot 180, est. $400-600)



INTERIOR shot of Hyannis Port, Massachusetts, showing several lots of Sandwich Glass

BUREAU OF CUSTOMS COMPUTERIZATION PROGRAM INCORPORATES APC GATEWAY PROJECTS

The Bureau of Customs (BOC) e-ASYCUDA Computerization Project will be applying the web-portal and e-payment gateway project studies created by Computer Science and Information Technology students of Asia Pacific College. The 465-million peso government project has incorporated in its Terms of Reference (TOR) the ICT projects of two batches of students as stated by Dennis Pantaleon, lead person of the Technical Working Group in the pre-bidding meeting held last December.

APC is the leading school implementing Applied Projects in its curriculum. In Project-based Learning, students work on projects relevant to their chosen specialization or major. APC students work closely with the faculty to develop concepts, conduct background research on the projects, evaluate Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Options, and negotiate with potential industry or government service partners to develop a prototype.

The most current projects the students are now developing or have developed are for various internal and external clients like the National Telecommunications Commission,E-congress, Early Childhood Development Project, the Presidential Management Staff, the Securities and Exchange Commission, Tahanang Walang Hagdan, the Armed Forces of the Philippines, National Livelihood Support Fund, the Philippine Broadcasting Services and, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority.

APC STUDENTS DEVELOP FACULTY MONITORING SYSTEM

The Computer Science and Information Technology Department of the Asia Pacific College recently presented the group work of eight of its students titled "Faculty Scholar Monitoring System (.FSMS)". Developed for the Commission on Higher Education, this group of students conceptualized an information system which aims to monitor the accepted teacher applicants for scholarship, their school performance and their received scholarship grants.

This system is under the Faculty Development Program of CHED which aims to upgrade the academic qualifications of university or college faculty members in the Philippines.

FSMS records files starting from the Higher Educational Institutions (HEI's) to the accepted scholars. The recorded files are then stored into a database and are accessed through the internet by its authorized users. The system's objective is to automate the monitoring of the faculty scholars from different HEIs nationwide. This system exhibits the academic standing of the scholars. Including the semester when grants are given, subjects enrolled in every semester, number of units or subjects taken each semester, name of the Delivering Higher Education Institution (DHEI) where the subject was taken, grade academic status per term and history of cases. Financial matters of the scholar is also monitored by FSMS for CHED to observe and provide for the scholars. With the use of this system, collection of data coming from Sending to Delivering ;HEIs becomes easier, simpler and more organized. Other than this, the Higher Education Institutions have easy access to the information about the scholars whenever they need it.

The FSMS also includes online registration of applicants. The registration process will be stored in its database for the screening of the DHEI. After registration, inquiry of the approved and disapproved applicants will also be posted on the FSMS website.

The system is created to help CHED and Faculty Development Program (FDP) to easily monitor the finished program or subjects taken by the scholars and the granted resources given to them which will include expenses for tuition fees, books and materials, transportation, and their living/housing. The FSMS is used by the CHED-HEDP to manage the academic performance of the faculty scholars and their scholarship grants. Also, the faculty scholars can now monitor their own scholarship and academic status.

This system developed by APC students, is now on its polishing state and hopefully, will soon be implemented by CHED.

APC re-affirms commitment to quality education

Education is costly – this is common knowledge. Many high school graduates today cannot get a college degree due to amongst others, financial constraints. In this light, Asia Pacific College, the educational partnership of SM Foundation and IBM Philippines,wants to drive home the message that with proper academic preparation and informed financial planning, high school graduates can achieve their dream of acquiring a good college education. It is an important message: students and their parents should know that higher education is both attainable and affordable in part through the wide-ranging scholarship and assistance programs of APC.

APC President Dr. Paulino Y. Tan reaffirms that the College is capable of offering generous scholarships and assistance programs as long as students meet the necessary requirements. Public high school graduates can avail of a 75% financial assistance and parish high school graduates, a 60% financial grant. A socialized financial assistance program is available for graduates of private schools.

Last school year (2003-2004) for example, APC awarded Php28.3 million worth of scholarships.

For the first and second trimester of this school year (2004-2005), APC has already granted PhP29.2million worth of scholarship and financial grants to students coming from public, parish, and even private high schools. Two new scholarship programs will be made available for incoming freshmen students of school year 2005-2006. Details regarding financial and scholarship programs can be downloaded at APC's website: www.apc.edu.ph. Potential scholars may also call the Admissions Department at telephone numbers 852-9670 to 71 and 852-9232.

Now accepting reservations for SY 2005 - 2006.

To ensure the courses of your choice, you are enjoined to arrange your reservations with APC starting January 17, 2005. Only 750 freshmen enrollees out of over 15,000 students from the Greater Metro Manila Schools that passed the entrance exams will be accepted for schoolyear 2005 - 2006.

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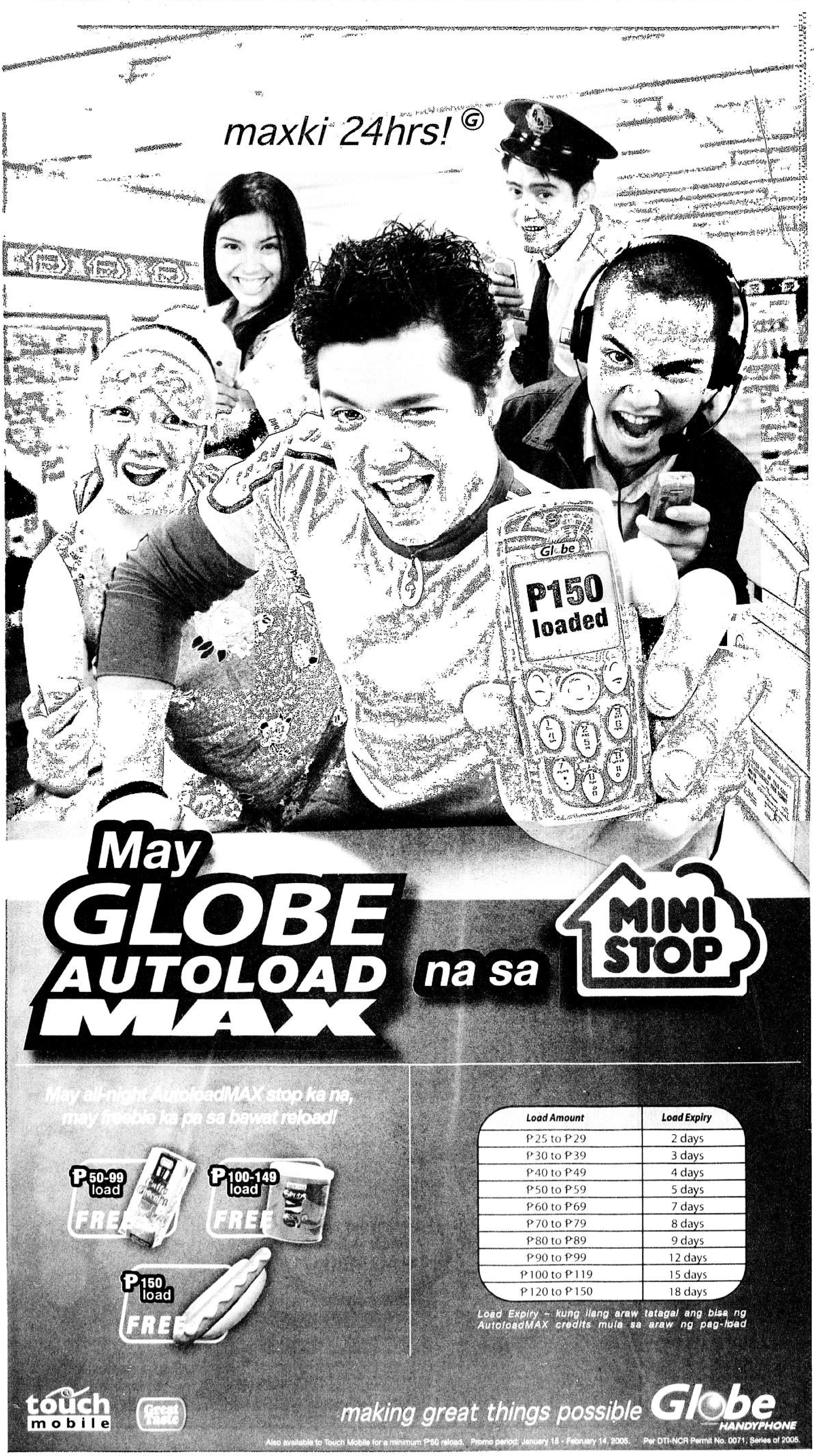

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Herb as symbol of love and fidelity

By Serapion S. Metilla
Contributor

GREEN TIPS

ROSEMARY has a stimulating aroma and is useful in cooking and medicine.

Scientifically called *Rosmarinus officinalis* (Labiatee), this bushy, aromatic evergreen shrub originated in the Mediterranean. Commonly called Romero, it is said to be the symbol of love and fidelity in medieval times. Sprigs of the aromatic plant were included in bridal wreaths and given to wedding guests.

When mature, the plant develops spikes of pale blue or lilac flowers that yield the essential oil used in eau de cologne.

In cooking, rosemary is best used to flavor roast and stewed mutton and lamb or in stuffing for strongly flavored meat. As tea, it is soothing and promotes good appetite.

Some of the herb's active components are flavonoids that are stimulants and antioxidants (substances that can neutralize highly active and damaging oxygen free radicals resulting from disease, radiation, etc.). Rosemary's phenols, like the rosmarinic acid, are antiseptic. They reduce inflammation and have analgesic (pain-relief) properties.

The herb also contains astringent tannins that fight infection. Its volatile oil has a sharp, stimulating fragrance with several active compounds like cineole and camphor.

Memory aid

Flavonoids stimulate blood circulation by strengthening the capillaries and improving venous blood flow. This helps improve memory and concentration, relieve headaches and stimulate hair growth. Prescribed for gut problems like dyspepsia, stomach cramps, bloating and constipation, rosemary also helps in digestion.

Studies on animals in 1987 showed that an extract of rosemary leaves and stems increased the flow of bile that is important in the digestion of fats. Rosemary was also found to be a diuretic (increases urine volume) and had a detoxifying effect on the liver.

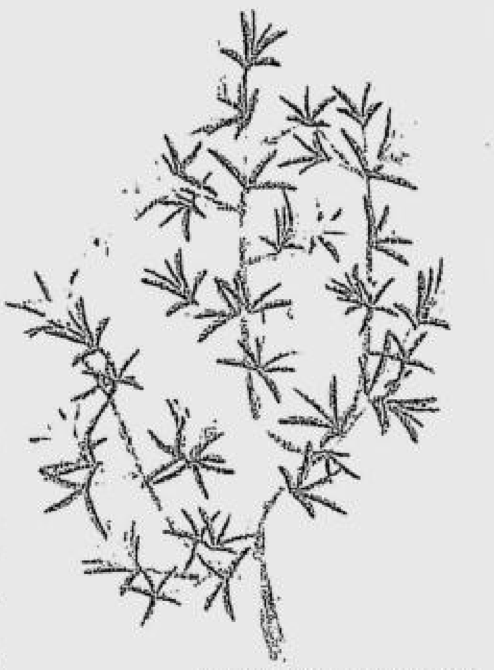


ILLUSTRATION BY ANTHONY MISTADES

As an anti-inflammatory, it helps in the treatment of bronchial problems, as well as ear, nose and throat infections. It is a good tonic for people suffering from general fatigue and its aroma is therapeutic.

Rosemary oil can be diluted with a neutral oil like sunflower, and applied externally for rheumatic and muscular pain and inflammation. Extracts can help prevent premature baldness by stimulating hair follicles and scalp circulation when applied on the head. Antiseptic and astringent actions make the herb useful in treating dandruff.

Easy propagation

Rosemary can be easily propagated from cuttings. Gather tip cuttings, about 1½ inch. Remove some of the lower leaves and insert individually up to at least ½ inch deep into a sandy porous soil medium in plastic seedling pots. Press the soil lightly to make the plant steady.

A good potting medium is one consisting of one part river sand, one part garden soil, one part coco coir dust and one part aged rice hull. Place plant in a shady area. It must be constantly moist but not wet. When fully rooted, transfer the plant to a partly sunny area. Later, repot in a bigger container.

Call 9394593.

Year's first plant show opens Jan. 28

HORTICULTURE 2005, the annual flower and garden show of the Philippine Horticultural Society Inc., will be held Jan. 28-Feb. 7 at the Manila Seedling Bank Environmental Center, corner Edsa and Quezon Avenue, QC.

Theme of this year's show is "Visions of Paradise." The by-invitation-only formal opening will be at 4 p.m., Jan. 28, with Adelia Angeles, an international plant connoisseur, and Chito Bertol, MSB president, presiding.

The exhibit will be open to the public 8 a.m.-6:30 p.m. on Jan. 29.

Show chairs PJ Nepomuceno and Fely Gupit said the show aims to make people aware of how the environment could be turned into a real paradise with colorful lush vegetation.

Club members will exhibit collections of various ornamental plants both local and imported.

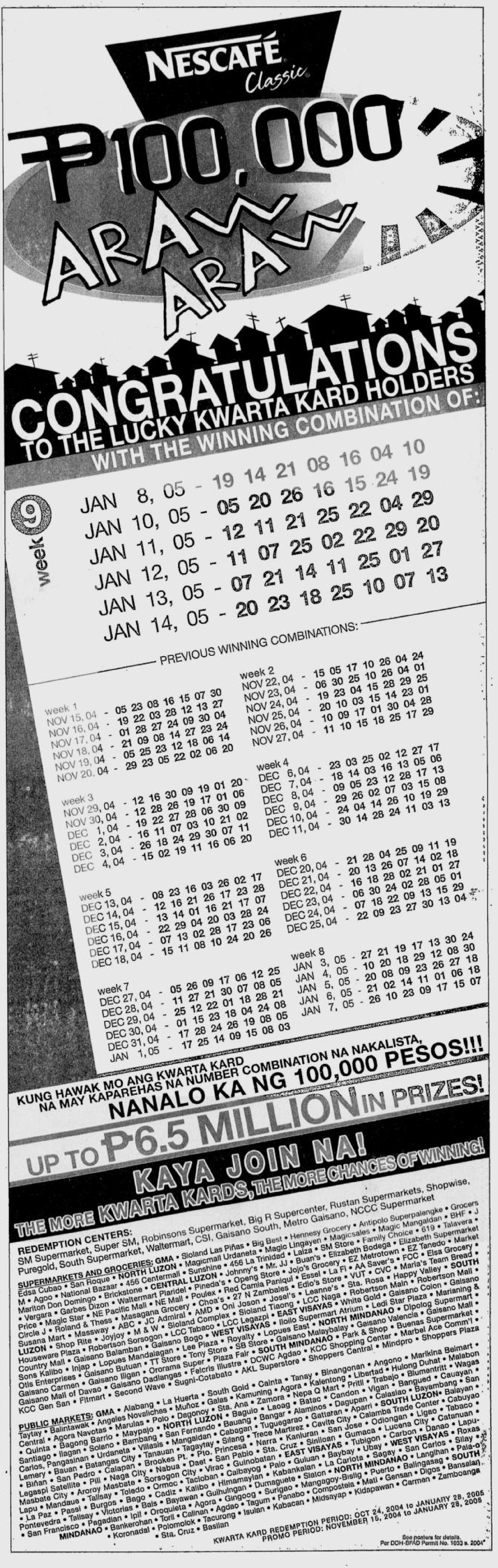
Some new plants with potential for landscaping or for indoor accent will also be introduced.

The show will feature plant competitions and lecture-demonstrations on plants and gardening.

Speakers and topics are: Chat Alejandro, "Feng Shui in the Garden"; PJ Nepomuceno, "Bromeliad Culture"; Fely S. Gupit, "Bonsai and Suiseki Stone Appreciation"; Andres Golamco Jr., "Potting and Growing Orchids"; Jimmy Floro, "Landscaping Your Own Pocket Garden"; Fernando Aurigue, "Mutation Breeding in Ornamental Plants"; Joyce Kato, "Paradise Regained in Ikebana"; East-West Seed Company, "Potted Flowering Plants"; PJ Nepomuceno, "Water Gardening"; Fernando Aurigue, "Breeding of Ornamental Plants"; PJ Nepomuceno, "Fern Culture"; and Serapion S. Metilla, "Tray Landscaping and Terrarium Making."

Plants and other garden materials will be raffled off after the lectures.

FRED Salud's first-prize booth landscape at Horti 2003



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KWARTA KARD REDEMPTION PERIOD: OCT 24, 2004 to JANUARY 28, 2005
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See posters for details.
Per DOH-BFAD Permit No. 1033 s. 2004

RUDOLF Golez

PIANIST Chloe Canton

VIVINA Yrastorza and Fe Sala-Villarica plot a blue ball.

Arts Council thanks patrons

CEBU CEBU

Jaime Picornell

THE ARTS Council of Cebu, headed by president **Petite Garcia**, hosted a reception for benefactors and sponsors at the Marcelo Fernan Press Center. **Chloe Canton**, talented daughter of longtime Talisay City councilor **Oscar Canton** and his lovely wife, the former **Merlyn Borromeo**, gave a piano recital at the center's well-appointed auditorium.

Chloe started piano lessons at 5 and had her solo debut at 13. Her biography lists one musical feat after another, capped by a scholarship from the council that allowed her to complete her master's degree at the University of the Philippines.

Chloe has received critical acclaim and awards in Manila, New York, Brittany (France) and Taipei, but this was her first grand performance in Cebu. The audience loved her, for her dexterity at the piano and her winsome looks.

The recital opened with Bach's "Partita in B Major." It was followed by Mozart's "Sonata in D Major," and "El Amor y la Muerte" from Goyescas, by Granados. The second part proved even more delightful: Chopin's "Nocturne in C Minor," Rachmaninoff's "Prelude in G," Debussy's "Reflections in the Water" and a breathtaking finale of Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue" for solo piano.

Flowers were presented to Chloe by **Ramon Escaño Jr.** and **Tetta Ba-ad** on behalf of sponsors Innove and Cebu Holdings, respectively. A beautiful pendant of diamonds and pearls in a velvet case was presented by Arts Council founder **Fe Sala Villarica** and vice president (external) **Vivina Chiu Yrastorza**, event chair.

2005 screening of grantees

Before the program started, VP (internal) **Maxwell Espina** gave the audience the rationale for the council's scholarship program. She also announced screening of grantees for 2005 would be held Feb. 26. The program received major support from East Asia Utilities and Cebu Private Power Corp.

Past scholars now doing well in their chosen fields are **Crystal Esmero** (voice), who may soon enter the San Francisco Conservatory; **Julius Mocorro** (guitar), **Janus Quiamco** and **Jan Elwyna Lagare** (both for film and audiovisual communications).

After the recital, Chloe was congratulated by family, friends and other artists, including pianist **Rudolf Golez**, fresh from an award-winning performance (bronze medal) in Malaysia's 1st Asean International Chopin Piano Competition. The following day, Cebu Gov. **Gwen Garcia** gave Rudolf the "Garbo sa Sugbu" award.

Immensely proud of Rudolf is his mother, Dr. **Rafaelita "Oche" Pelaez Golez**, president of Liceo de Cagayan University in Cagayan de Oro City. She fondly recalls how Rudolf's love for music was nurtured by her own parents, the late Don **Rodolfo** and Doña **Elsa Pelaez**.

State-of-the-art center

The Pelaez couple founded Liceo more than 50 years ago. Under the presidency of Oche, the school has become one of the most important institutions of learning in the south. She has constructed a state-of-the-art cultural center in the campus that will be called the Rodelsa Hall in her parents' memory.

The opening ceremonies are set for Feb. 6, a Sunday. Rudolf will perform a grand solo piano recital. A few days later, his younger brother **Alain Golez** will take the spotlight as the king of Siam in **Benjie Diola**'s production of that lovable Rodgers and Hammerstein Broadway hit, "The King and I."

For these and other events lined up in February in Cagayan de Oro, many Cebuanos are now making travel plans. Among them are Fe Villarica and Vivina Yrastorza who are well into other plans concerning the Arts Council.

The year 2005 is the council's 45th since Fe founded it, and there has to be some celebration. Vivina is an ace when it comes to planning a big event and getting sponsors. No one can say no to her! At her birthday party held in Laguna Garden we eavesdropped on some of her ideas.

Discussions and more concrete efforts were started the night **Mike** and **Tess Pablo** celebrated her birthday at their home in Maria Luisa Estate Park. The occasion looked like a reunion of the waltz dancers from the "Sleeping Beauty" ballet.

Ballet, ball for 45th

Fe was saying it would be nice to have another full-length ballet to launch the 45th anniversary, if not by her own company perhaps **Lisa Macuja Elizalde's** Ballet Manila. "Why not a ball?" Vivina suggested. "Also," responded Fe.

When blue was mentioned, some asked why? Blue as in blue sapphire, the gem that marks a 45th anniversary. Isn't it emerald? others wanted to know. That's for the 55th, an expert on jubilees volunteered. Before that will come the golden anniversary. The Arts Council will turn 50 in 2010. That will be a big to-do for which plans are already underway.

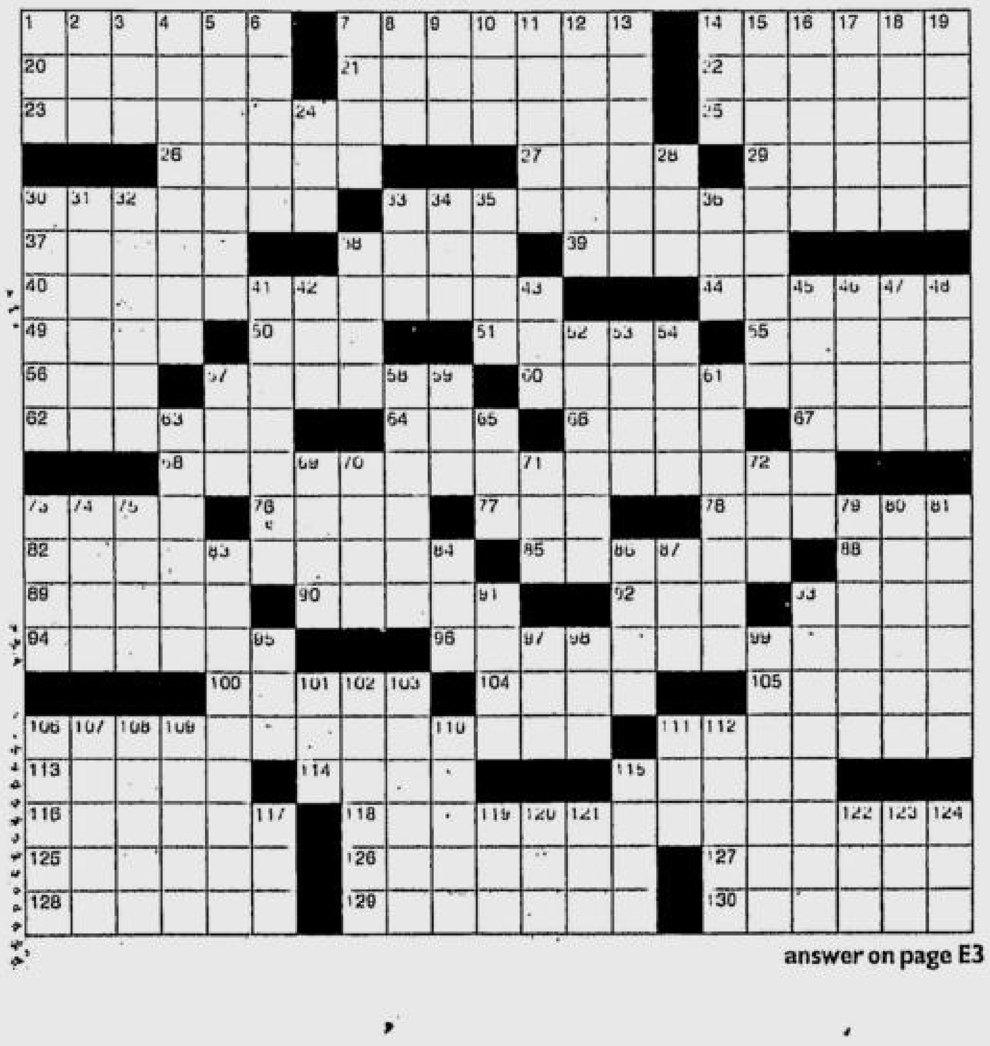
SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

THAT AGAIN!

ACROSS
1 Hires out
7 Flee
14 1940s jazz fan
20 Current unit
21 Friz Freleng's real first name
22 1998 British Open winner Mark
23 Waterway with no turns?
25 Amnesty
26 Old automaker who produced the Bearcat
27 Qatar's capital
29 Puts an upper surface on
30 Longs for
33 Horrible bear?
37 Give the slip
38 Expand
39 "— and Her Men" (Ingrid Bergman film)
40 Trilogy about breakfast food?
44 Dress
49 Aardvark's entree
50 Part of AFB
51 Pago Pago's place
55 Fluorescent red dye
56 Debussy's "La —"
57 Do a favor for
60 Blacklisted rock group?
62 ASAP
64 Cry of disgust
66 Drill, e.g.
67 Added details
68 Pre-noon display of grief?
73 Delhi dress
76 A very long time
77 "Bobby Hockey"
78 Theologian Aquinas
82 Have good penmanship?
85 Lament
88 Santa —, CA
89 End-of-book list
90 Comedienne Martha's family
92 That guy's
93 Bohemian
94 Lunges for
96 What a mollusk flexes?
100 Face part
104 Face part
105 They may bug you
106 Benefit a soothsayer?
111 Essentially
113 Clinton cabineteer Les
114 Medicinal fluids
115 Old anesthetic
116 Subway gates
118 War-loving army officer?
125 Guitarists' gizmos
126 6x9-inch books
127 Must
128 Loath
129 Give a new do to
130 Befuddles

DOWN
1 "Leaving — Vegas"
2 One skilled in CPR
3 Fourth mo.
4 Shores
5 African country
6 Smooth transition
7 Cracker brand
8 Navy abbr.
9 Rebellious Turner
10 HST followed him
11 Speed trap sites
12 Camden Yards player
13 — acetate (solvent)
14 Use a pogo stick
15 Gaunt-looking
16 Rosie of "White Men Can't Jump"
17 Spanish port
18 On — (winning)
19 Aster family perennial
24 Altitudes. Abbr.
28 Ripen
30 Pack up and leave
31 More balanced
32 "Nausea" novelist
33 Terrier's threat
34 "Vive le —!" ("Long live the king!")
35 "— framed!"
36 Genetic letters
38 "Ginger Spice" Halliwell
41 Peon
42 The "S" of RSVP
43 Chem. classroom
45 Trinidad's partner
46 "This — outrage!"
47 Lime coat
48 Wraps up
52 Adult
53 — about (around)
54 Auth. unknown
57 Plains tribe
58 Very wary
59 Cadbury treat
61 Snobbish attitude
63 Hits hard
65 Med. insurer
69 Film genre
70 Swenson of "Benson"
71 Sphere
72 77-Across' org.
73 Big gulp
74 Italian river
75 Go by car
79 Oldest Brady girl
80 Elk feature
81 "What — thou?"
83 They look closely
84 Pro — (acting)
86 "How soon?"
87 Have a bug
91 The like
93 Maligned
95 Wee one
97 That ship
98 With 101-Down, tummy tighteners
99 Patrolled the aisles
101 See 98-Down
102 Aftershock
103 Journalist Greeley
106 Zili, e.g.
107 Queue after Q
108 Think aloud
109 Clerk at work
110 Segments
111 Bill-filled machine
112 Bigger — breadbox
115 Ultimatum ender
117 Pierre-Tulsa dir.
119 "I tought I taw a puddy —!"
120 Living wall climber
121 Earthlink alternative
122 "Good" cholesterol
123 Fed on
124 — Alamos



answer on page E3

End may be near for long-term 'business' relationship

EMILY'S POST

Emily A. Marcelo

DEAR Emily,

I've been addicted to sex since I was in first-year high school. Since that time, I've practiced unsafe sex almost every day, doing it with everyone from a five-year-old kid to a 60-year-old man, I think.

But everything changed when a high-school freshman started to run my life. He has become my whole world. Our love affair started when I was 30 and he was 15 years old. This January is the third year and fourth month that we have been together.

It was a "pay-for-sex" relationship. When we became intimate the first time, he told me to give him a cell phone so we could communicate regularly. I found that sweet, for a while.

Eventually, we'd have sex and he'd demand clothes, shoes, accessories, latest cell phones and money, money, money. I supported his studies as well but, despite the tens of thousands I'd spent, he did not resume his studies.

I have no money now because I neglected my business when I was with him. Now that I'm broke, we don't have sex anymore. Sometimes, during birthdays or holidays, he'd give it to me for free.

Sad fact is he is not even a good lover. But I don't care. He said he could not love me as much as I loved him because I was not a woman. That hurt!

I'm so afraid he'll meet another guy who will give him everything he wants and this new guy will get the love my boyfriend never gave me. I don't want to lose him. I love him so much that I'd rather be dead than live without him.

CRAZY-IN-LOVE

I am aghast that you were a pedophile! In my book, child molesters should be lined up against the wall and shot by musketry. Lucky you, you're not being judged here. So that matter is between you and your creator.

I'm not disparaging you because you're gay. But you have a problem that you must seriously take care of. You are sick—literally and figuratively! Have a physician check your hormones for any imbalance.

I'm not a certified voodoo medic. So I can only ask how you can lose a business, how you can let go of your bread and butter, your means of livelihood for a person you very well know is milking you dry! Sure, one time or another, everyone's been horribly, terrifically crazy in love—but very few cut their oxygen supply because of it! And in your case—for sex?

You are being too self-indulgent and your obsession has blinded you.

Half of your life you've focused all of your energy on sex, sex, sex.

Unfortunately, you've also blurred the boundary between sex and love and interchanged them. Your value system... your concept of what's right, left and center has warped and gone haywire and everything has been focused below your waist for a long time. You are to be shaken hard or hung upside-down so that blood will flow back to your head because, obviously, it has not been there for a while.

In case you've forgotten, there's also a lot of living and thinking to do above your navel. Wake up because life marches on. It has no pity for those who whine and wallow in misery.

Forgetful

My girlfriend and I have been arguing constantly about my habit of forgetting little details in our relationship—like calling her once a day. To make matters worse, my family doesn't like her very much. She's eight years my senior and she knows how they feel about her.

I hate our culture! When a man marries a younger woman, everybody gives him a pat on the back and tells him: *"Galing mo, p're!"* But if he goes for somebody a bit older, they taunt him and say: *"Di bale tipid yan, may nanay ka na, may ate ka pa, may tita ka na at,* in a few years time, *may lola ka na."* Grrrrr! *Kainis!* I think this is affecting her a lot and I fear that we are growing apart, that I might lose her for good.

I can never be the perfect guy, the most sensitive and sensible guy in the planet. But I want her to know that she completes me, she lightens my worries and problems. She inspires me to be a better person. She clarifies whatever doubts I have about life. She brings hope to my heart and inspires me to face life's battles with excitement.

When we're together, all the worries and hypocrisies in the world disappear. In her I find solace and comfort.

BF

It's all great and wonderful that your age difference suits you fine.

But, if you can rhapsodize about her in this letter, why is it such a big deal for you to give her a call once—ONCE!—a day? Is that asking too much? You profess that she inspires you, that she comforts you, that she is this and all that shebang in your life, yet you make her utterly insecure by not even trying to comfort her with one lousy call a day!

What is it with you? It seems you'd rather roll the words of love in your mouth than say them to her face. It seems that you think the cadence of words sounds more romantic stuck in your head than if you say them to her.

Truth to tell, your avowals of love sound like a press release.

She won't give a hoot whatever your friends and family say about your age difference. They can call her names, throw sticks and stones for all she cares if there's you to shield her from all that nastiness.

What she wants from you is one rotten call to show the integrity of what you blah blah blah is your love for her!

Walk your talk. Or is that one stupid phone call too much of a walk for you?

Send your e-mail to emarcelo@inquirer.com.ph, subject: Lifestyle, or send your letters to INQUIRER. *Listen to Ms. Marcelo co-host the program "Kalikasan Vigilante," 7:15-8:30 p.m., Monday- Friday, on dwBR 104.3 FM.*

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT G. RODRIGUE

100-year-old women's movement turns its attention on environment

SEEING GREEN

Doris Gaskell Nuyda

FOR AS long as we can remember, Filipino women's clubs have concerned themselves with matters close to their members' mothering hearts—education, social work, women's rights, children's welfare, home and family.

Recently, however, they've moved their goals further to include politics and other areas. Now, they've taken up ecological causes as well, for which we applaud them.

These active women we refer to are members of the Feminist Movement of the Philippines (FMP), which is marking its centennial in 2005 by virtue of a presidential proclamation. The observance is under the auspices of the National Commission on the Role of Women and the National Federation of Women's Clubs of the Philippines.

The FMP has lined up several activities to mark this big anniversary including the unveiling of markers, meetings and speeches.

But it will not be all talk and display. They have also taken up the advocacy of moral values, legislation, governance and, specifically, the environment.

The women's movement in the Philippines is not just the women's search for equality with men in areas other than suffrage (which they fought for and got in 1937).

The Filipino woman has always been equal to the men, as history attests. She is the traditional holder of the family purse and the manager of her home. As such, she is keenly aware of the needs of her family and, by extension, of the country.

Her involvement in environmental issues is, thus, nothing new. She has always been aware of what the land and sea provide because they meet many of the family's daily needs. The Filipino woman's close affinity to nature is manifested even in her choice of hobbies that usually have something to do with gardening and beautification.

Slated for action in FMP's environmental agenda are the following:

- Work for the implementation of a law declaring a five-year moratorium on large-scale mining to allow the repair of damage caused by mine pollution all over the country;
- Call for initiatives from the national and local governments to stop massive legal and illegal logging and encourage investment of time, energy and funds on aerial seeding of deforested areas. And, as substitute for timber, FMP advocates the planting and use of bamboo;
- Make the rehabilitation of mangroves for the fishing industry a must. For this, the FMP will work for the implementation of livelihood programs for people making a living on forest products.

Destructive fishing (*muro-ami*, zipper, sonar) has to be stopped, too. The movement is pushing for the restoration of DA 117 which prohibits commercial fishing within 15 km from the shore. Owners of fishing boats guilty of this violation will be arrested. In the same vein, foreign poachers will be stopped by the efficient safeguard of our waters.

- The FMP is also pushing for legislation that would mandate the setting aside of one percent of the internal revenue allocation of local governments for environmental projects such as the setting up of ecology centers and the purchase of equipment for composting organic waste and conversion of residuals into hollow blocks. Use of coconut coir instead of imported nylon will be required of the Department of Public Highways to prevent soil erosion.

The FMP also keeps its eyes on environmental issues that crop up in seemingly unrelated matters, such as what it perceives to be the overkill of shopping mall construction. This should be prohibited, it maintains, because not only do malls run small retailers in the same area out of business, they also increase pollution and congestion as they use up more water and electricity.

For these efforts and more, we congratulate the FMP.

E-mail the author at dorisnuyda@yahoo.com

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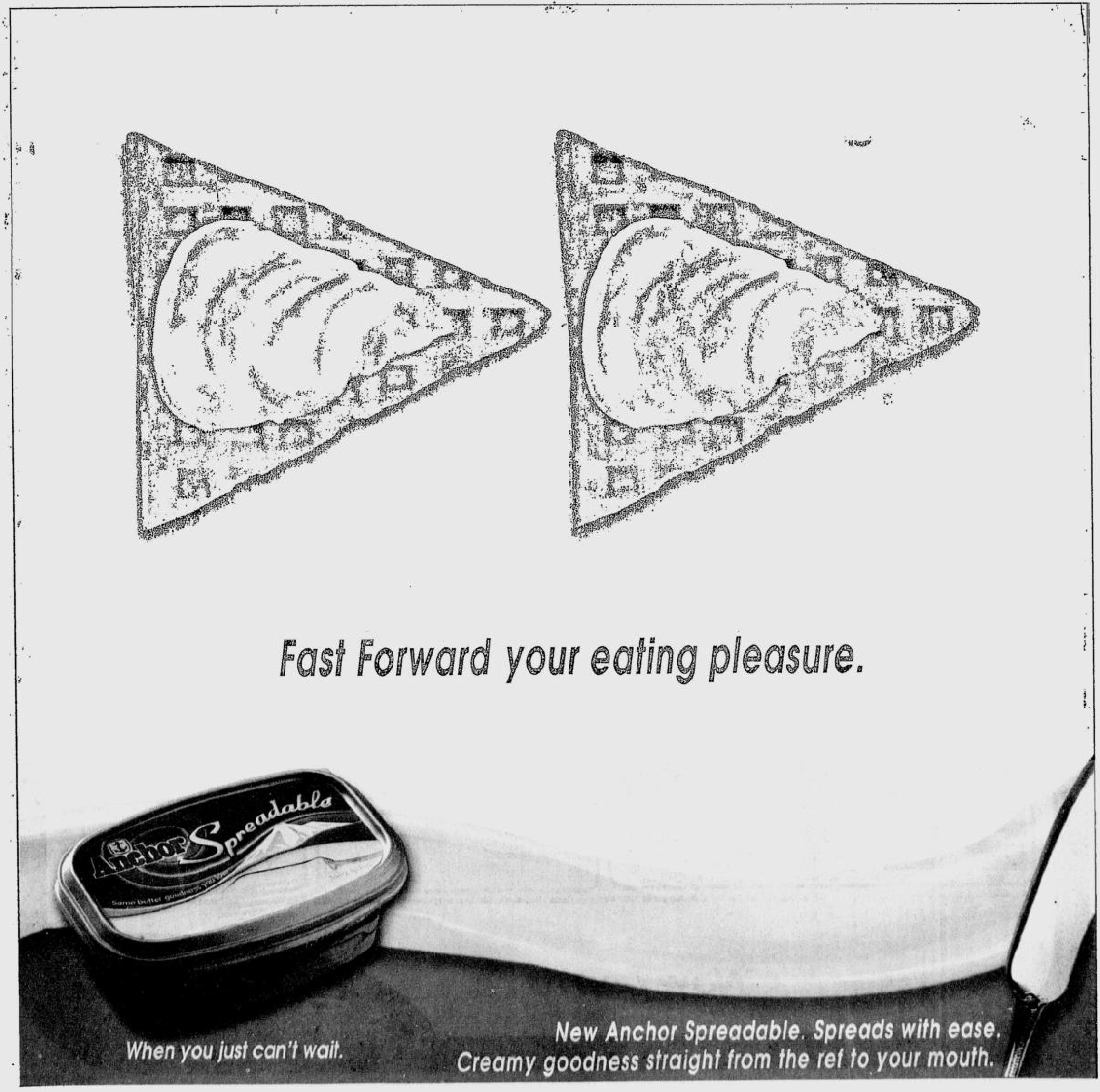
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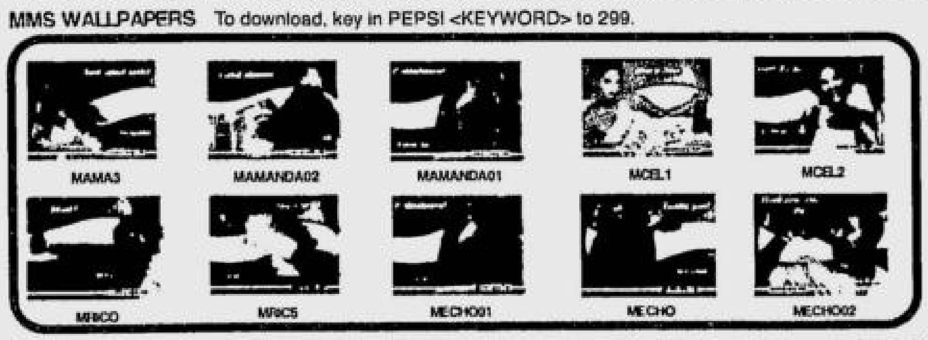
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RINGTONES Text MONO or POLY <keyword> to 286.

ARTIST	TITLE	KEYWORD
Rivermaya	Liwanag sa Dilim (Kaya Mo 'Tol)	LIWANAG
	A Love To Share	LUV2SHARE
	Sunday Driving	SUNDRIVE
	Umaaraw Umuulan	ARAWULAN
	Balisong	BALISONG
Jennifer Lopez	Ain't It Funny	FUNNY
	If You Had My Love	IFUHADMYLUV
	Jenny From the Block	JENYFRMDBLCK
	Let's Get Loud	GETLOUD
	Play	PLAY
Beyonce	Baby Boy	BABYBOY
	Crazy in Love	CRAZYINLUV
Ricky Martin	Livin' La Vida Loca	LAVIDALOCA
	She Bangs	SHEBANGS

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ARTIST	TITLE	RING ID
Rivermaya	Liwanag sa Dilim (Kaya Mo 'Tol)	101258
	A Love To Share	100126
	Umaaraw Umuulan	100140
	Balisong	100897
South Border	Playa	100613
	The Show	100614
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Sunday LIFESTYLE Weddings

Grand bridal fair at the Tent

"KILI-KILI Power" by Edith Esguerra of Makati City

ON JAN. 22 and 23, the Philippine Daily Inquirer's Sunday Lifestyle section, in cooperation with cbv7 media Master, will raise the bridal event curtain for 2005 with the staging of "Wedding March at the NBC Tent".

The fair will gather the finest and most respected suppliers in an exhibit that will feature the latest trends in the wedding industry.

The two-day event at the NBC Tent in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, will feature a fashion show, to be directed by Raymond Villanueva, featuring 12 of the country's most respected fashion designers. The creations of Auggie Cordero, Jojie Lloren, Loretto, Rajo Laurel, Patrice Ramos Diaz, Eric Pineda, JC Buendia, Eddie Baddeo, Frederic Peralta, Mike de la Rosa, Efren Ocampo and Tonichi Nocom will showcase the evolution of the bridal gown from the 1920s to the new millennium.

Other highlights include "Petal Pusher," a bridal hair-and-makeup trend forecast by Patrick Rosas, and an exhibit of the winners of the Canon-PDI Candid Wedding Photo Contest. Flowers will be provided by noted floral stylist Tony Rodriguez.

The bridal fair is co-presented by Jam 88.3, Wave 89.1, Cebu Pacific, Canon Phils., inq7.net, Batis Asul Caterers, Themes & Motifs, Nurture Spa, Ilustrado, Westin Philippine Plaza, Balay Kandila and www.weddingsatwork.com.

BRIDAL gown by Loretto, photographed by Edwin Tuyay at the Makati Shangri-La

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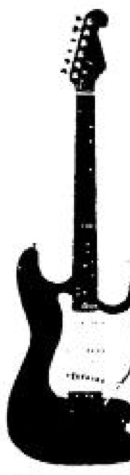

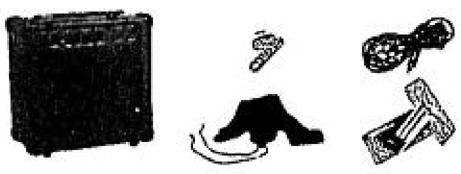

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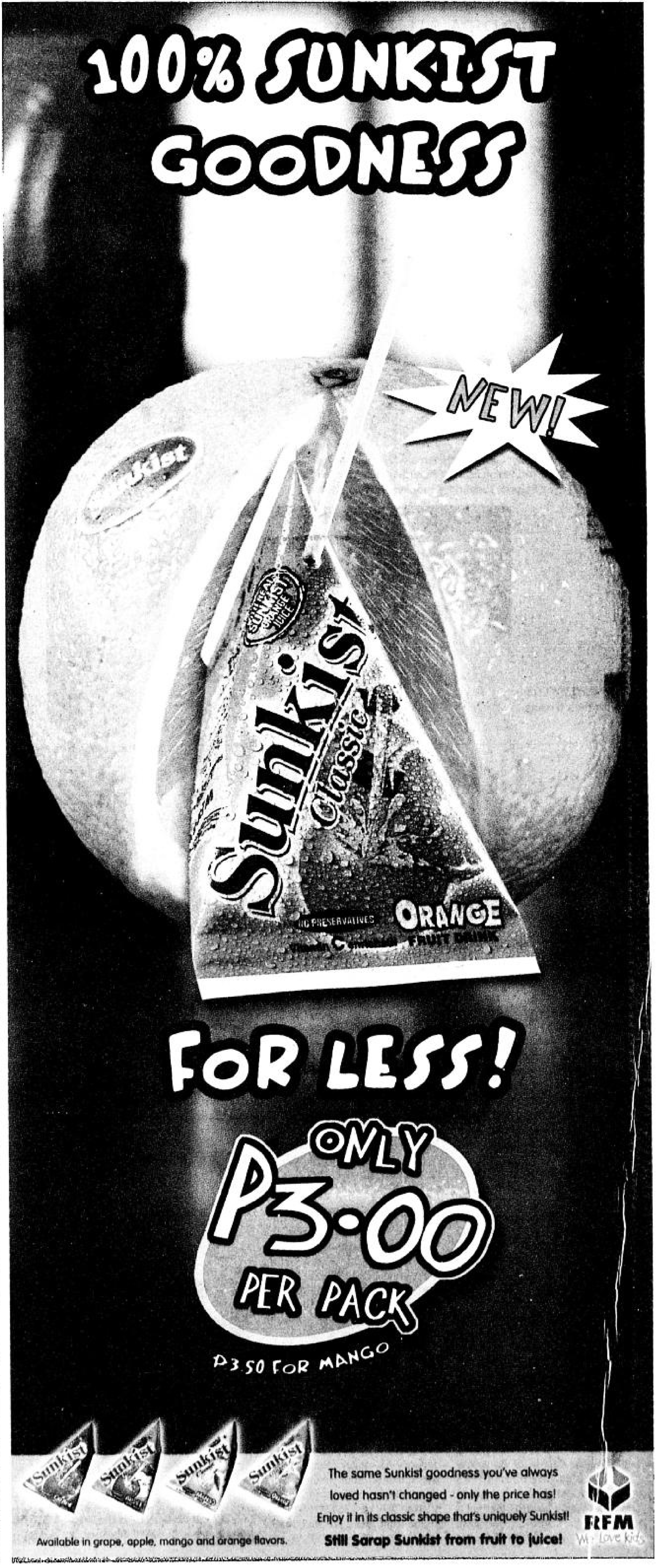

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First love—true love

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THE BRIDE with her mom, Angelina Rillorta

THE NEWLYWEDS with their friends

THEY were classmates in high school at the Infant Jesus Montessori in their hometown of Santiago City in Isabela.

For Michael Ng and Maureen Rillota, the first turned out to be the one true love and after an engagement of 10 years, they finally tied the knot at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes.

Rev. Fr. Mario Dorado officiated at the nuptial rites. The bride walked down the aisle in an ivory-white princess-cut silk gazar gown with see-through sleeves and detachable train, embellished with caviar and glass beads, designed and executed by Eddie Baddeo. Her hair and make-up were done by Eric Maningat of Studio 546.

The reception for over 300 guests was held in the garden-type setting of Gazebo Royale in Quezon City. The floral and fruit arrangements were done by Emma's Flower Shop. Hizon's Catering took care of the food.

The SJT strings ensemble provided a background of romantic music.

The newlyweds honeymooned in Singapore.

NEWLYWEDS Michael and Maureen Ng (née Rillorta)

Iloilo celebrates feast of miraculous Sto. Niño

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Darang

ALTHOUGH the celebration is not as well-known as the Dinagyang Festival in Iloilo, the district of Arevalo, half an hour away from Jaro, faithfully marks the feast of the miraculous Sto. Niño de Arevalo, believed to be the third oldest image of the Holy Child in the Philippines.

The first image was brought by Ferdinand Magellan in 1521 and given to Queen Juana. It was lost for 44 years then discovered by soldiers of Juan Miguel de Legazpi in 1565. The second oldest image is the Sto. Niño de Tondo, enshrined in 1572.

The Sto. Niño de Arevalo was brought to the district in 1581. The current parish priest, Fr. Jesusimo Candado, will say a Fiesta Mass at 6 a.m. Msgr. Joemar Delgado, representing Archbishop Angel Lagdameo, will officiate at the 8 a.m. Bishop's Mass.

Miracles

At least 15 recorded miracles are attributed to the Sto. Niño de Arevalo. Among them was the miraculous healing of Cecilia Gison Villanueva, who was critically ill in 1999 because of a gall bladder infection.

Hermelo "Brad" Pido's colon cancer was on its third stage when it was healed also in 1999.

Milagros Zabala of Barangay Sto. Domingo gave birth in 1983 to Aldrin, who had hernia at birth. At seven months, he had a convulsion and everyone thought he was dead. Milagros prayed to the Holy Child to bring him back to life. She pumped Aldrin's chest while praying and, miraculously, her son recovered. The boy's hernia was healed without surgery or medication.

For more information on Sto. Niño de Arevalo, call (034)3375667.

Karakol

Ermita Church will hold a "karakol" in honor of the Sto. Niño at 3 p.m. today. Led by parish priest Fr. Sanny de Claro and the Apostleship of Prayer, the "karakol" will dance on M.H. del Pilar, Pedro Gil and A. Mabini Streets and UN Avenue. A blessing of children will be conducted during the 8 a.m. Sunday Mass.

Rosa Mistica Mass

Every 13th of the month, the Messages from Heaven Foundation holds a 12:15 p.m. Holy Mass for the Rosa Mistica at Don Bosco Church in Makati. The miraculous image of the Rosa Mistica is brought to the church by Dr. Teresa Bitanga Valeros.

The religious non-stock foundation was formed in 2002 to propagate devotion to Mother Mary, particularly Maria Rosa Mistica. It was prompted by the need to bring to more people books by Fr. Adolf Faroni, SDB, an Italian from Don Bosco, particularly Messages from Heaven given through the visionary Tina Ognibene from Mussomeli, Sicily, from 1991 to 1999. The messages are warnings that, unless humankind will change, it will experience a great punishment.

FR. Honorato Castigador, OP, retreat master (fourth from left), with newly ordained Dominican deacons: Revs. Jhun Bolo, Ronald Cortel, Moti Jose, Jannel Abogado, Jojie Padilla, Robini Marianto, Mars Saria and Adrian Adiredjo

STO. Niño de Arevalo is the third oldest image in the Philippines.

Dr. Valeros, niece of Msgr. Leon Bitanga, pastor emeritus of Dagupan City, is founding president.

A shrine to Maria Mistica will be built on a 10-hectare property in Tanay, Rizal. Prayer requests and love offerings can be sent with names and photos for healing to BB-013 Business Box, Alabang Town Center, Muntinlupa City. Call 8217672.

Motorcade

A motorcade brought the relic of San Ildefonso to the church in San Ildefonso, Bulacan, Jan. 14. Those who went and venerated the relic got free *estampitas*.

The First Communion of 100 Grade III pupils of San Ildefonso Elementary School will be on Jan. 19 at 8:30 a.m. Concepcion de la Fuente led the catechists who taught the students.

Fatima visit

The international pilgrim image of Our Lady of Fatima will be at the Inmaculada Concepcion Cathedral in Pasig Jan. 16-17. Then, she will be at the Center of Peace Asia Jan. 17-18 and the Diocese of Cubao Jan. 18-26. For details, call Radio Maria Philippines at (045) 9823514 or Diocesan Chancery of Tarlac at (045) 9821938.

418 years in RP

It has been 418 years since the first wave of Dominican missionaries arrived in the Philippines in 1587. In 1611, the Dominican order built the Colegio de Sto. Tomas. Now a university, Sto. Tomas is the oldest in Asia. The Dominicans also put up the Colegio de San Juan de Letran, the oldest secondary school in Asia.

Founded by Sto. Domingo de Guzman, the order's vision in mission is preaching—its gift to the church. Sto. Domingo saw the need for specially trained priests to spread the truth by preaching and teaching in apostolic poverty. There are 9,000 Dominican priests in the world.

The Philippine province was established Dec. 8, 1971. Filipino Dominicans continue preaching the Gospel in various forms of apostolic ministries. Fr. Edmund Nantes is the father provincial. Recently, nine Dominicans were ordained deacons at the Sto. Domingo Church in Quezon City adding to the 220 professed brothers that would bring Christ closer to the people. The new deacons are Moti Jose, Mars Saria, Jhun Bolo, Jannel Abogado, Ronald Cortel, Jojie Padilla, Adrian Adiredjo and Robini Marianto.

Young men who want to enter the religious life can call Sto. Domingo Convent at 7126271-75.

St. Agnes' feast

The feast day of St. Agnes, virgin and martyr, is on Jan. 21. The saint, whose name means "lamb," was a beautiful Roman girl who consecrated herself to Christ. By refusing to marry or to denounce Christ, she bore all kinds of torture and was beheaded. On her feast day, two lambs are blessed in her church in Rome.

Help needed

The following seminarians of the Missionary Oratorians of Jesus need financial help for their priestly studies: Alex Suaner, Jorge Angga, Ramil Hamil and Ferdinand Aporillo. Write to them c/o Missionary Oratorians of Jesus, Divine Word Theological Seminary, SVD Road, Tagaytay City.

Milestones

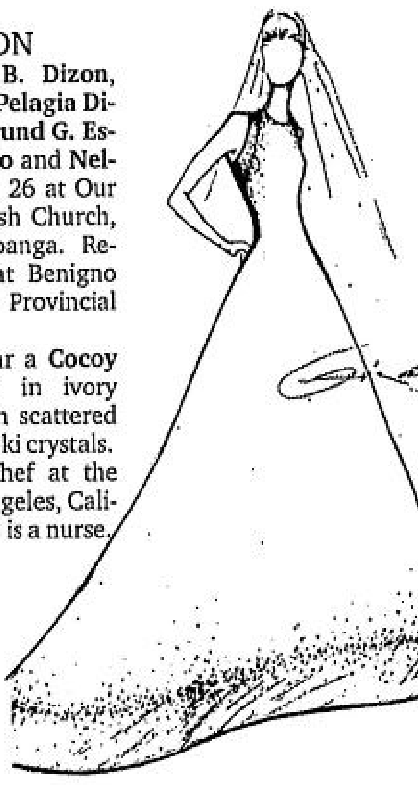
We're accepting announcements of weddings and engagements. Please send the following typewritten information: names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, gown designer and other related information. Readers can send sketches of gowns and pictures of the couple to the INQUIRER *office, or P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City, or e-mail lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. This will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the sender.*

ESGUERRA-DIZON

Mary Antoinette B. Dizon, daughter of **Jose** and **Pelagia Dizon**, will marry **Raymund G. Esguerra**, son of **Alfredo** and **Nellie Esguerra**, on Feb. 26 at Our Lady of Sorrows Parish Church, San Fernando, Pampanga. Reception will follow at Benigno Hall of the Pampanga Provincial Capitol.

The bride will wear a **Cocoy Lizaso** halter gown in ivory duchess adorned with scattered cutbeads and Swarovski crystals.

The groom is a chef at the Hilton Hotel in Los Angeles, California, while the bride is a nurse.



ALCANTARA-BINAY

Eliseo "Don" Villacruz Alcantara III, businessman and son of engineer **Eliseo** and **Marie Alcantara**, will marry **Marita Angeline "Anne" Sombillo Binay**, daughter of Makati **Mayor Jejomar** and Dr. **Elenita Binay**, on Jan. 29, at the Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Church in Tagaytay. Reception will follow at the Taal Vista Hotel in Tagaytay.

The gowns of the bridal entourage are by **Aureo Alonzo**, the suits by **Randy Ortiz**, and invitations by Prinsonalities.

BANGUIS DEBUT

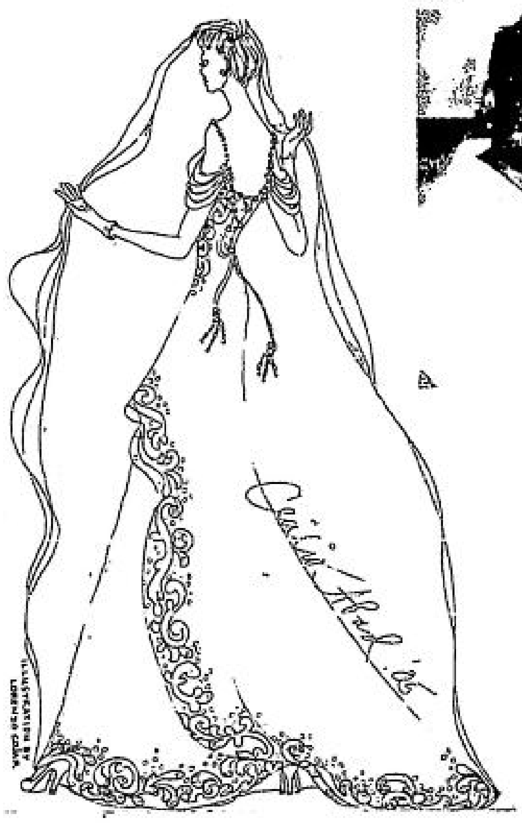
Grace Anne Banguis, eldest daughter of the late **Glenn Banguis**, former vice president for media of Ace Saatchi and Saatchi, and the former **Neli Locarte**, celebrated her 18th birthday Jan. 8 with a dinner-dance at the Sala Filipina, Barbara's Restaurant, Intramuros, Manila.

A graduate of St. Scholastica's high school, the debutante is taking up advertising management at the De La Salle University.

Her gown was designed by **Jayson Borja.**

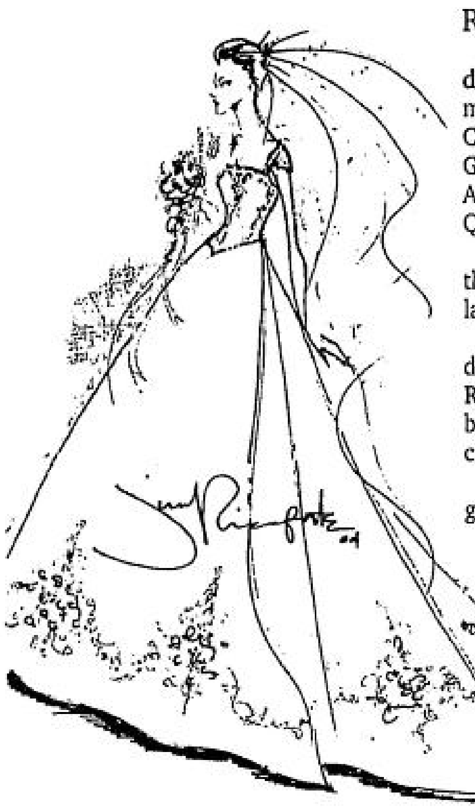
BALMES-GUSTO

Lawyer **Erickson Hernandez Balmes**, eldest son of **Estelito** and **Ma. Concepcion Balmes** of Batangas City, married recently **Lani Briones Gusto**, only daughter of **Justino** and **Ligaya Gusto** of Batangas City, at the Basilica of Immaculada Concepcion in Batangas City.



LEAL-CANTORIA

Myla S. Cantoria, daughter of **Edgardo Cantoria** and **Virginia Supnet** of Narvacan, Ilocos Sur, will exchange marriage vows with **Lawrence Adrian L. Leal**, son of **Napoleon Leal** and **Remedios Luciano** of Malate, Manila, on Jan. 29 at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in Miami, Florida. The bride will wear a white duchess satin gown with caviar, Swarovski and bugle beads at the bodice and running through the hemline. The gown, designed by **Cecilio Abad**, will have soft drapes at the arms.



RAVAS-JOVELLANO

Michael Ravas and **Judith S. Jovellano** were married recently at the Cathedral Shrine of the Good Shepherd, Regalado Avenue, Fairview Park, QC.

Reception followed at the Clubhouse of Casa Milan.

The bride wore an ivory duchess satin gown by **Jun Ricaforte** of I Do with embroidery, cut glass and crystals.

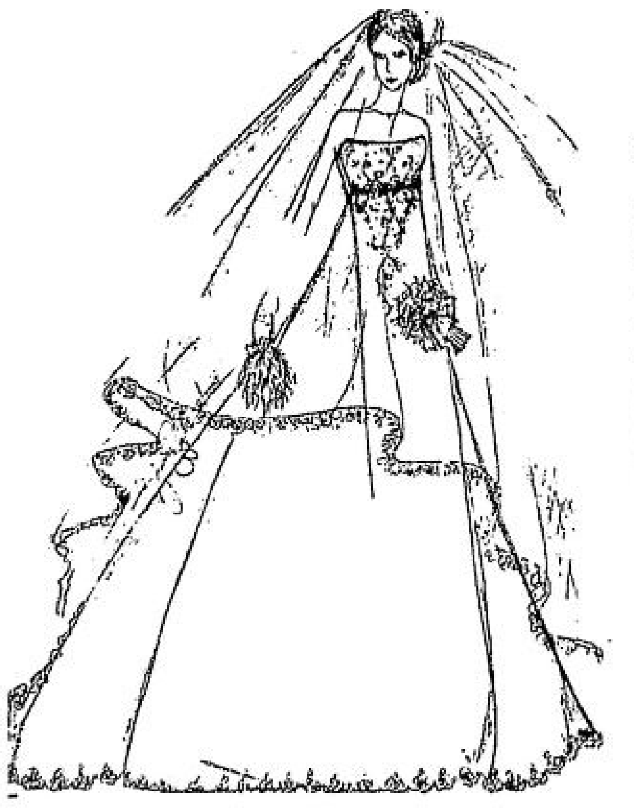
The entourage wore gowns in burgundy.

MIRASOL-BAUTISTA

Richard Mirasol, son of **Jacinto** (deceased) and **Lucilla Mirasol**, married recently **Jasmin Bautista**, daughter of **Reynaldo** and **Antonieta Bautista**, at the Cathedral of Saint John the Baptist, Kalibo, Aklan. The bride's gown was designed by **Edwin Atencio**. Event coordinator was **Rommel Constantino** of 5672.

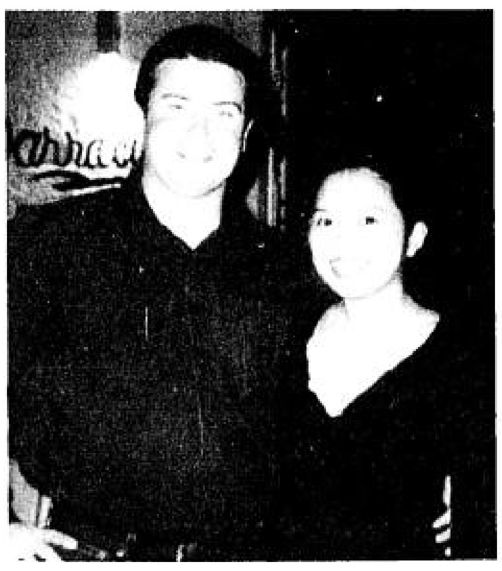
SUPETRAN CORAL ANNIVERSARY

Leonardo and **Flordeliza Supetran** marked their 35th wedding anniversary recently by renewing their vows at the Bishop Moises F. Buzon Memorial Church in Tondo, Manila. Rev. **Salvador Tiquia II** and Rev. **Nepthali Mendoza** officiated in the rites. Principal sponsors were Sandiganbayan Associate Justice **Raoul** and **Lirio Victorino**, and engineer **Filemon** and **Jacinta Zafra**. Providing the music were Prof. **Leonie B. Bautista**, Chorus Philippines under choirmaster **Joy T. Nilo**, and **Gabby San Pedro Rojas**, conductor of the Angono National Symphonic Band. Reception was held at the Citystate Tower Hotel in Ermita.



RIVERA-SAMIA

Ronel Rivera, son of **Rolando** and **Magdalena Rivera**, married recently **Lovelyn Samia**, daughter of **Romeo** and **Rosalinda Samia**, at the Our Lady of Guadalupe church, Makati. Reception followed at Makati Shangri-La. The bride wore an empire-cut gown of duchess satin embellished with crystal beads, pearls, and rhinestone in vine and leaf patterns, by **Junel Lim Gallon.** Her lace-trimmed veil was adorned with a handmade tiara of crystal beads. The entourage wore two-toned shantung in celadon green.



WETTER-DE VILLA

Carmela M. de Villa, daughter of **Romeo** and **Ma. Patricia R. de Villa** of Iriga City, married recently engineer **Joakim Wetter**, son of **Janne** and **Ing Marie Wetter** of Vasteras, Sweden, at the St. Jude Parish Church, Naga City. Reception followed at Moraville Garden, Pili, Camarines Sur.

DE VERA-RIGOR

Erwin de Vera, son of Mr. and Ms **Ernesto de Vera** of San Carlos City, Pangasinan, married recently Dr. **Rensie Chiara D. Rigor**, daughter of engineer and Ms **Efren Rigor** of Tarlac City, at the St. Joseph the Worker Parish, Pacdal Road, Baguio City. The Mass was concelebrated by Fr. **Bobby Mac Roxas**, SDB, and Fr. **Charles B. Manlangit**, SDB. Reception followed at the Grand Ballroom of the Baguio City Country Club, Baguio City.

Frederick Peralta created the clothes of the bride and groom, while **Marianne Lazaro** designed the gowns of the female entourage.

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD

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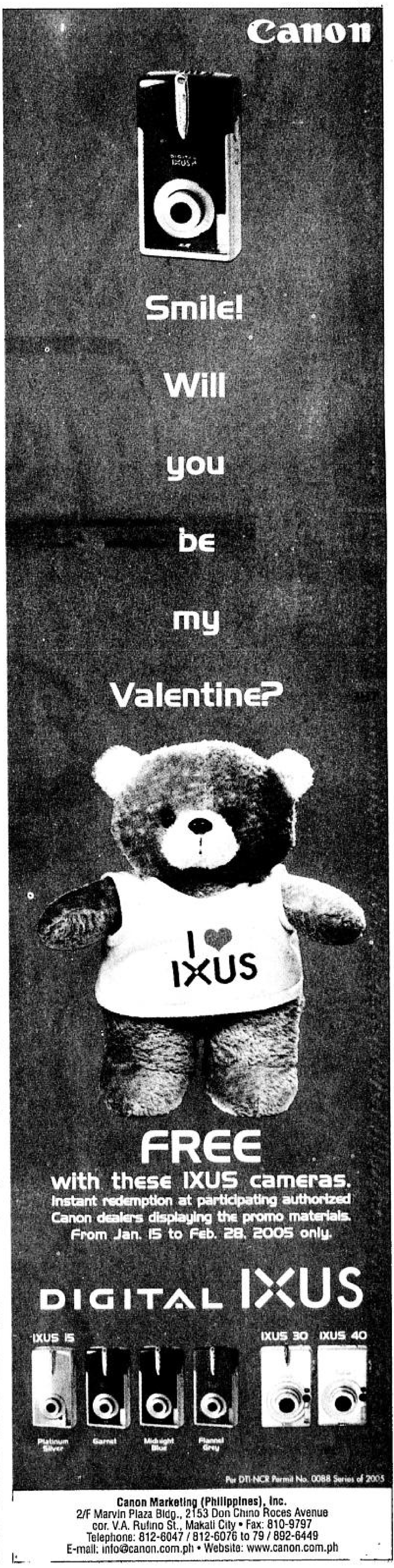

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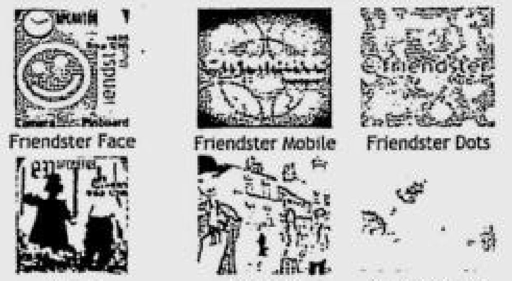

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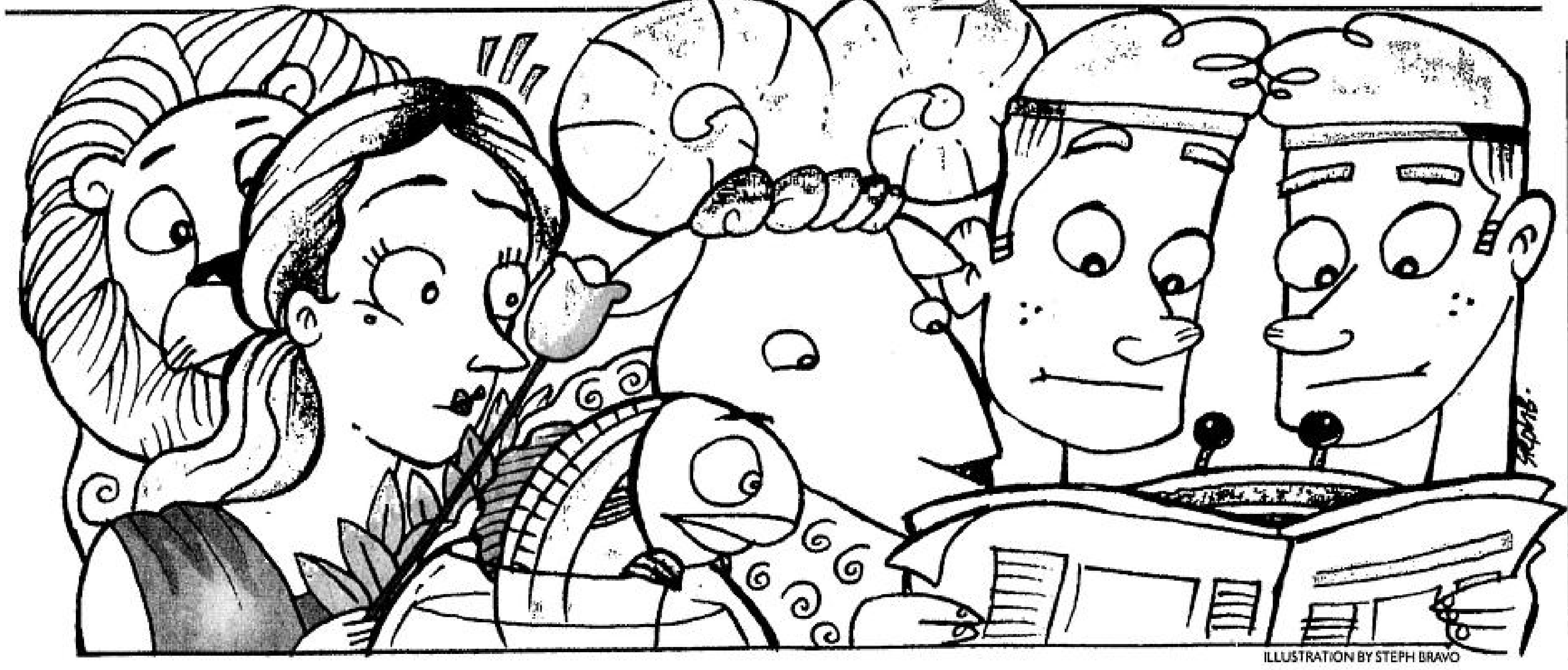


ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

Stars and signs 2005

By Cheche V. Moral

IF you're born under Libra, this is your lucky year. If you're a Leo, look forward to a challenging year ahead.

That's according to top astrologer Zenaida Seva. It was Seva who correctly predicted the earthquake in 1990 that devastated Luzon, and the Mount Pinatubo eruption in 1991. She was also the one who warned a Makati socio-civic organization against traveling because of a looming air disaster less than two weeks before 9/11.

She explains she's not into New Year predictions because the calendar is "arbitrary" and has "nothing to do with reality of any sort." "The Gregorian calendar decided this," she explains.

But each individual or group has its own personal horoscope. Her forecasts, therefore, are "a general trend" and a "collective energy."

Libra's luck began during the first cycle of luck, which started on Sept. 23, 2004, and will go on until Oct. 26 this year, the beginning of another cycle, according to Seva.

Other air signs like Gemini and Aquarius, and Libra's solar opposite, Aries, will be just as auspicious.

Librans will be lucky in every way. They will have lots of luck with money.

"Lots of money," Seva stresses. "But they have to be careful that this isn't scammed, say, if someone borrows it."

Librans can look ahead to a healthy year, too, but Seva warns them to stay away from too much sweets "because they tend to put on weight."

Those born under Aries will be lucky in partnerships on the first cycle. On the next cycle, luck will be in their access to other people's resources like inheritances, insurance or money of a partner.

Meanwhile, it's job and health for Taurus on the first cycle, and partnerships on the latter cycle.

Gemini will be lucky in love affairs, children and creative undertakings on the first cycle, and in their job on the second.

For Cancer, it's home, parents, and domestic relations on the first; and love affair, children, access to other's resources on the second.

Worrisome

Anything involving communication and creativity will be auspicious for the Leo on the first cycle, according to Seva.

But the Leo has something to worry about on the second cycle.

"For the past 2½ years since June 2003, the Cancerians have been feeling depressed and oppressed," she says. "Their suffering may end on July 15, 2005. Now it's time for Leos to be careful for the next 2½ years."

Like Cancer, Libra, Aries and Capricorn also had their share of hard times in the recent past. "*Pinaka*-heavy for the Leos because it's a fire sign. You will feel like your fire is being stumped."

A fun-loving sign, Leos are generally generous and open-hearted, says Seva. They are attractive and star material—and they know it. They, however, tend to shirk away from responsibility.

"Like children they don't like to worry... It may be time for them to assume more responsibility to offset the difficult period." On the second cycle, acquiring a home or refurbishing one may be good for the Leo, she notes.

Seva advises everyone to define what they have been resisting all along.

"Ask yourself, have I been having too much fun? But you know, Leos also recover emotionally because they're having fun."

Virgo, meanwhile, will have luck in money and possessions for the first part; then luck in ventures in communication and those involving messengers and drivers, as well as luck in selling and kinships in the latter part.

> Top astrologer Zenaida Seva says there's reason to both hope and dread the new year. But she chooses to be optimistic

Scorpio will do good with new business partners and secret liaisons, romantic or not. On the next cycle, they will handle lots of money.

For the first cycle, Sagittarius will be lucky in big groups and organizations. They will have time to focus on their hopes and dreams, which will come true. It will be a good time for Sagittarians to deal with old people; they will develop interest in things offbeat, and become open to other ways of thinking. They will also meet unusual people.

Secret liaisons are seen on the next cycle for Sagittarius. They will also have access to other people's money.

The real Sagittarius year, however, will begin by the end of 2006. "This happens only every 250 years," Seva adds.

Capricorns will have luck in their career. They will be very popular on the first cycle. It is especially auspicious if they are involved in organizations where they handle big amounts of money. Travel and matters involving publicity is good for Aquarius on this period. Their career will be "very *bongga*," she says, "but they have to be careful for being famous. Others may envy them."

Pisces, "the most poetic ones," will have good partnerships and ideal relationship on the first cycle. They will also have material luck. Later, they may inherit from someone far away, according to the astrologer.

Decline of the West

Seva says the dominance of the West is waning and is now shifting to Asia. "But not necessarily the Philippines. It could be China, Singapore, Malaysia..."

Seva says "the dead giveaway" on the West's decline is that the "Americans keep raising taxes."

Ditto with the Philippines: "And we're also passing too many taxes. *Sa* economic cycle, *pag bumibigat na ang* taxes that's when you know *hinuhugot na sa bulsa mo ang pera*. These cycles have occurred on record for the past 300 years."

The astrologer refuses to be pessimistic. "The spiritual answer to that is that there is no such thing as a negative thing," she says. "If it's there, it's part of the universe, like the tsunami. It is there so you may examine your reaction to the event, and what you'll do with that knowledge. Should you change because of that? What is being asked of you?"

And how will the country survive the downturn? Seva says the Philippines' strength based on the horoscope is its people's childlike wonder and spirituality.

"We are basically an optimistic people. In other words, we're Leos. We're fun-loving, *maporma*. We have this ability to run away from our problems. We are able to transcend our lack of material things. *Bukas na lang kung may ipapang*-good time *pa ngayon*. *Mangungutang tayo* to have fun. *Maski huling pera ibibigay pa*. But if you resist responsibility, it will go deeper and ambush you somewhere."

Because of this, it may be pushing our luck to expect a collective action to counter difficulties. "The best thing we can do is to concentrate on the positive part of what we can individually do for ourselves," Seva notes.

"*Hindi nga lang magandang signos na namatay si* Fernando Poe Jr. because he was a Leo," Seva adds. "He was the Sun; he embodied it. It's like the sunset, *lumubog na*. He wasn't called 'Da King' by accident. There are no accidents in the universe. Leo is royalty; [FPJ] embodied everything that was Pinoy... The only other person who had the same factor was Princess Diana."

On a lighter note, this period will be a lucky year to get married, especially for Aries and even for Leos because "getting married is a responsibility that you have to assume." Venus, she says, will combine perfectly somewhere in May 17 to 20, so it's a good time to get hitched especially if you're born on May 31 or Sept. 20.

According to Seva, lucky businesses for Librans and, secondarily for Gemini and Aquarius are matchmaking and dating services, wedding products, wedding planning, beautiful objects, interior design, luxury goods like silk, cosmetics and perfume, fashion shows, beauty parlors, marble quarrying, piano manufacturing, wig making and ventures that enhance beauty.

Zenaida Seva has been studying astrology for almost 30 years, and has trained under world-renowned astrologers in the United States, United Kingdom and Switzerland. E-mail her at zenaida_seva@yahoo.com.

E-mail the author at cmoral@inquirer.com.ph

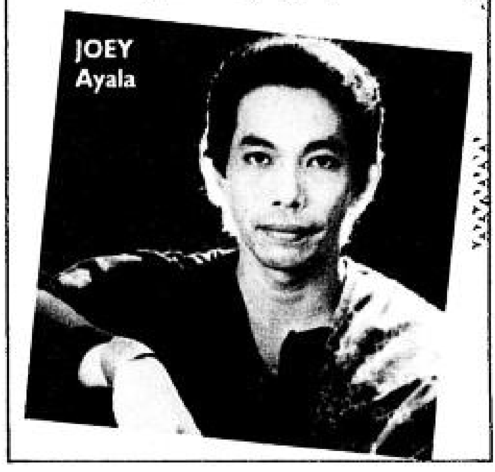
9th autism consciousness week starts today

THE AUTISM Society of the Philippines (ASP) will mark the 9th National Autism Consciousness Week Jan. 16-22 with the theme "Kapit-Bisig sa Pagtugon sa Autismo."

Highlight of the week is a dinner show, "Awit Autismo," featuring Joey Ayala with the special participation of individuals with autism, 7-11 p.m., Jan. 21, Conspiracy Café, 59 Visayas Ave., Quezon City.

Three orientation sessions on autism will be held during the week: 9:30-11 a.m., Jan. 17, at the NCWDP Boardroom, SRA Bldg., Diliman, Quezon City; 9:30-11 a.m., Jan. 19, at the Rehabilitation Sheltered Workshop, J.P. Burgos St., Proj. 4, Quezon City; and 9-11 a.m., Jan. 19, at the Neptali Gonzales Integrated Day Care Center, Welfareville Compound, Mandaluyong City.

The ASP Family Day will be held 8 a.m.-1 p.m., Jan. 23, at the Pagasa Hall, Philippine Center for Mental Health (formerly National Mental Hospital), Nueve de Febrero St., Mandaluyong City.



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BY ROBERT WONG

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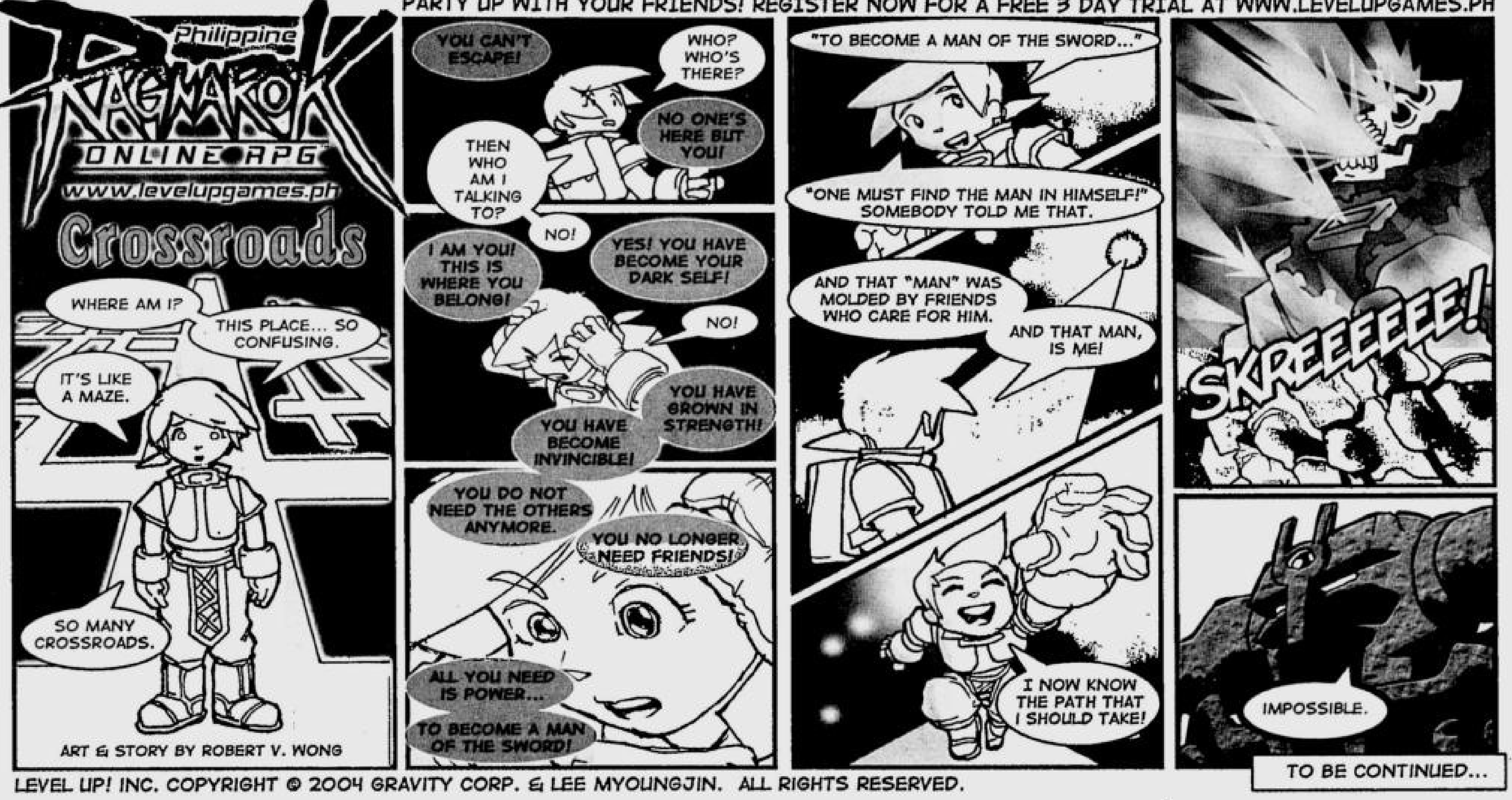
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Crossroads
WHERE AM I?
THIS PLACE... SO CONFUSING.
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SO MANY CROSSROADS.
ART & STORY BY ROBERT V. WONG
YOU CAN'T ESCAPE!
WHO? WHO'S THERE?
NO ONE'S HERE BUT YOU!
THEN WHO AM I TALKING TO?
NO!
I AM YOU! THIS IS WHERE YOU BELONG!
YES! YOU HAVE BECOME YOUR DARK SELF!
NO!
YOU HAVE GROWN IN STRENGTH!
YOU HAVE BECOME INVINCIBLE!
YOU DO NOT NEED THE OTHERS ANYMORE.
YOU NO LONGER NEED FRIENDS!
ALL YOU NEED IS POWER...
TO BECOME A MAN OF THE SWORD!
"TO BECOME A MAN OF THE SWORD..."
"ONE MUST FIND THE MAN IN HIMSELF!" SOMEBODY TOLD ME THAT.
AND THAT "MAN" WAS MOLDED BY FRIENDS WHO CARE FOR HIM.
AND THAT MAN, IS ME!
I NOW KNOW THE PATH THAT I SHOULD TAKE!
SKREEEEEEE!
IMPOSSIBLE.

TO BE CONTINUED...

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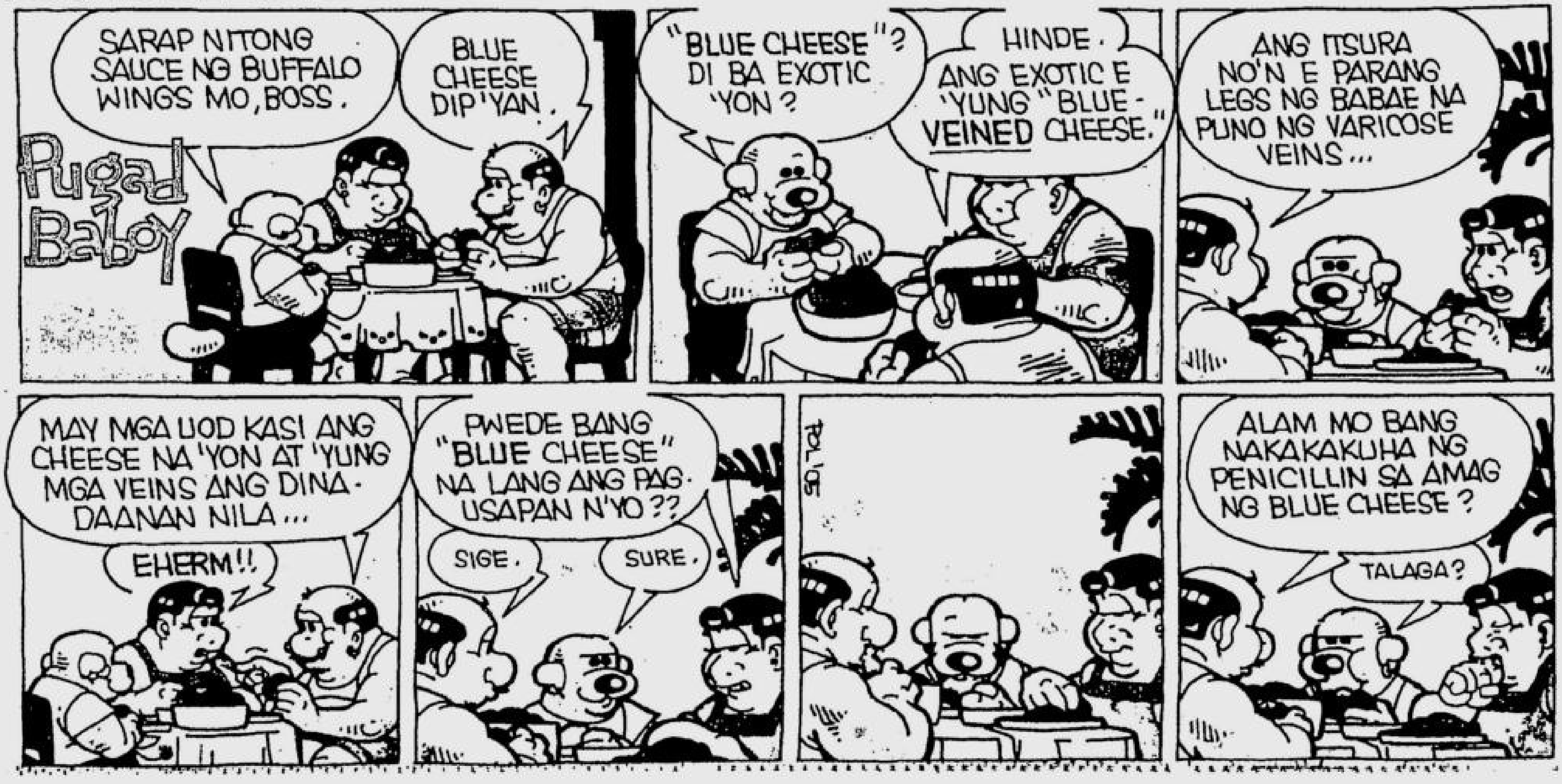
PUGAD BABOY

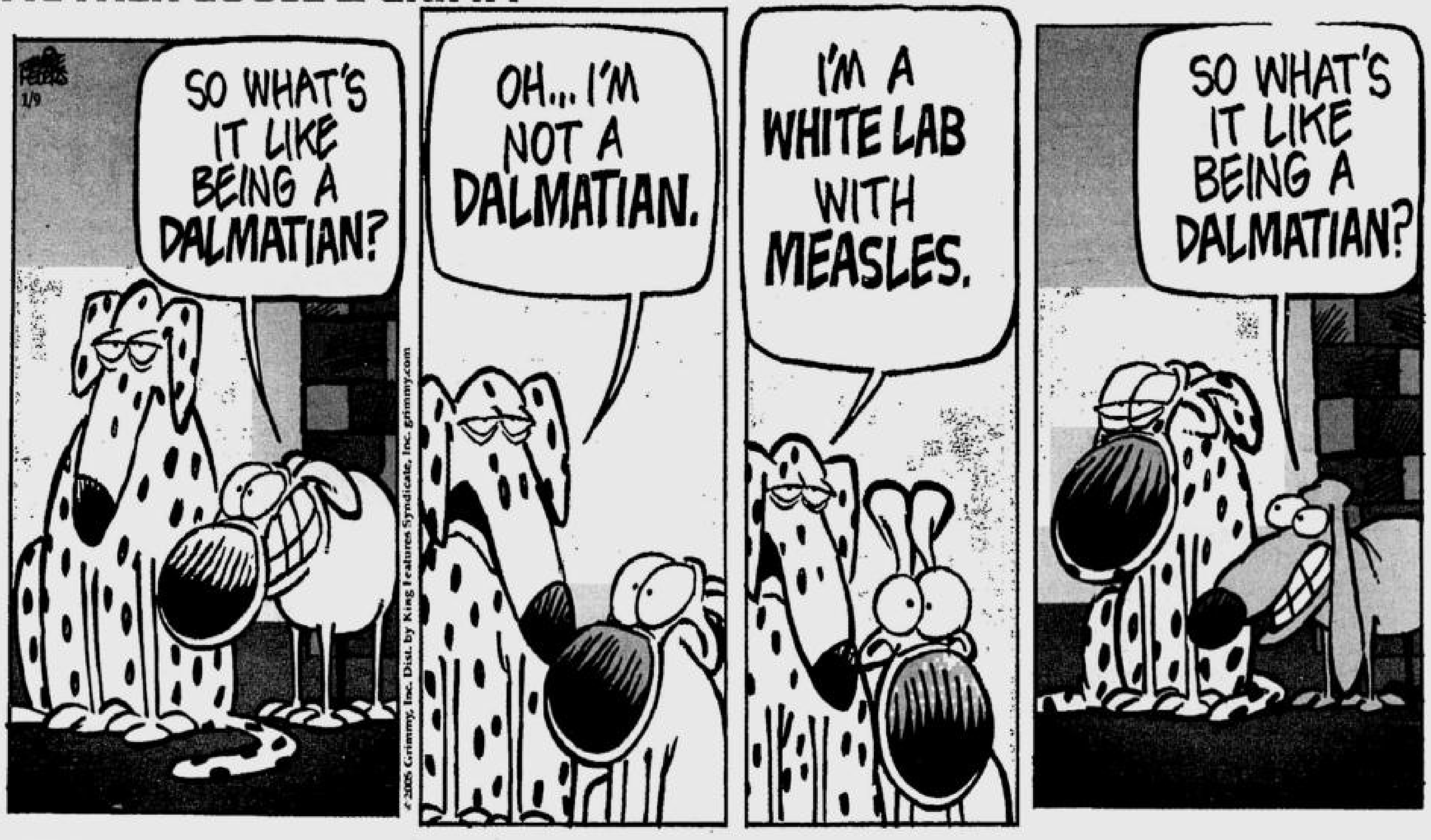
BY POL MEDINA JR.


Pugad Baboy
SARAP NITONG SAUCE NG BUFFALO WINGS MO, BOSS.
BLUE CHEESE DIP 'YAN.
"BLUE CHEESE"? DI BA EXOTIC 'YON?
HINDE. ANG EXOTIC E 'YUNG "BLUE-VEINED CHEESE."
ANG ITSURA NO'N E PARANG LEGS NG BABAE NA PUNO NG VARICOSE VEINS...
MAY MGA UOD KASI ANG CHEESE NA 'YON AT 'YUNG MGA VEINS ANG DINA-DAANAN NILA...
EHERM!!
PWEDE BANG "BLUE CHEESE" NA LANG ANG PAG-USAPAN N'YO??
SIGE.
SURE.
POL '05
ALAM MO BANG NAKAKAKUHA NG PENICILLIN SA AMAG NG BLUE CHEESE?
TALAGA?

FOLLOW THE FOLD TO GET TO

MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


PETERS 1/9
SO WHAT'S IT LIKE BEING A DALMATIAN?
OH... I'M NOT A DALMATIAN.
I'M A WHITE LAB WITH MEASLES.
SO WHAT'S IT LIKE BEING A DALMATIAN?
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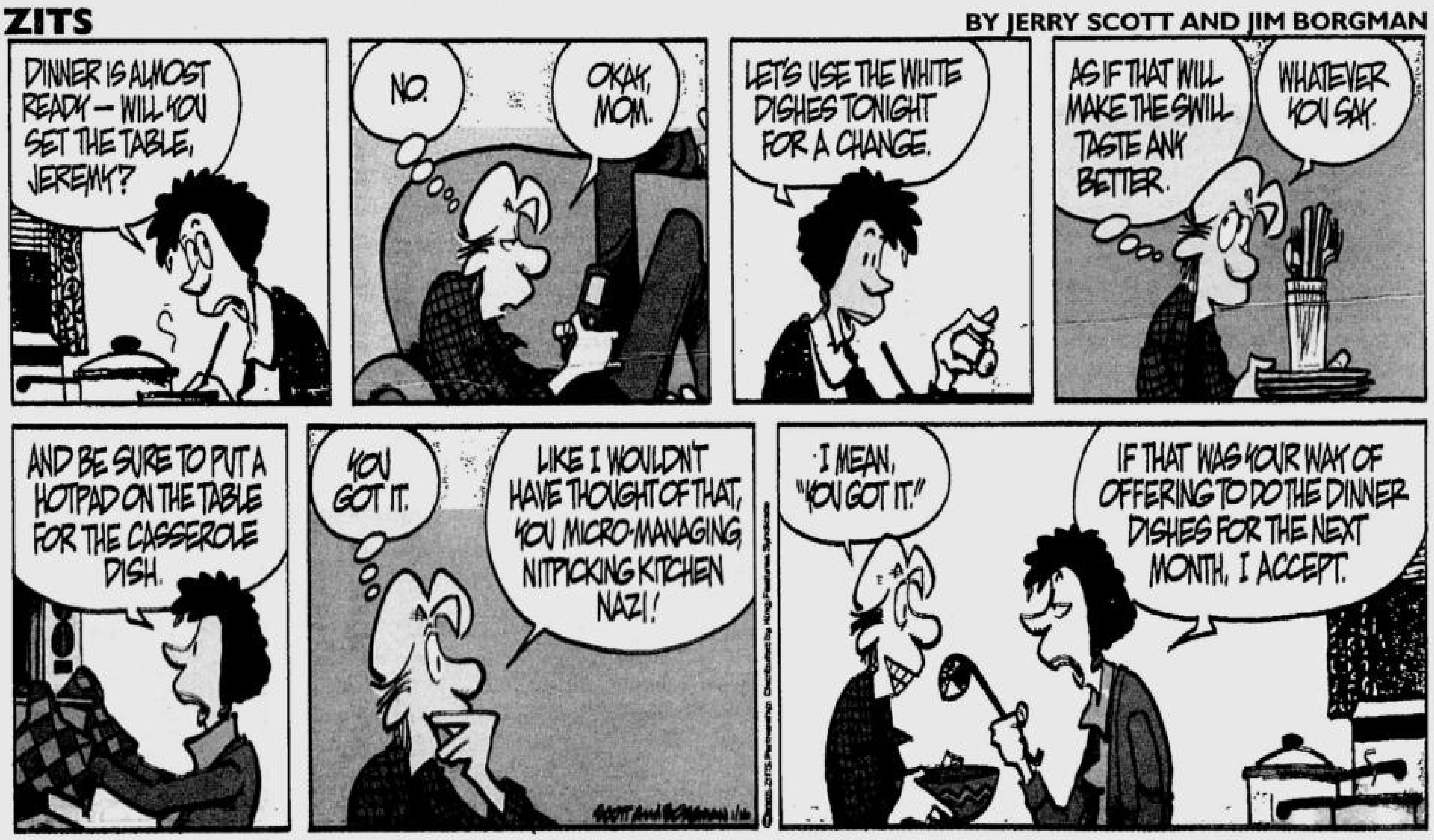
ZITS

BY JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN


DINNER IS ALMOST READY — WILL YOU SET THE TABLE, JEREMY?
NO.
OKAY, MOM.
LET'S USE THE WHITE DISHES TONIGHT FOR A CHANGE.
AS IF THAT WILL MAKE THE SWILL TASTE ANY BETTER.
WHATEVER YOU SAY.
AND BE SURE TO PUT A HOTPAD ON THE TABLE FOR THE CASSEROLE DISH.
YOU GOT IT.
LIKE I WOULDN'T HAVE THOUGHT OF THAT, YOU MICRO-MANAGING NITPICKING KITCHEN NAZI!
I MEAN, "YOU GOT IT."
IF THAT WAS YOUR WAY OF OFFERING TO DO THE DINNER DISHES FOR THE NEXT MONTH, I ACCEPT.
SCOTT AND BORGMAN 1/16
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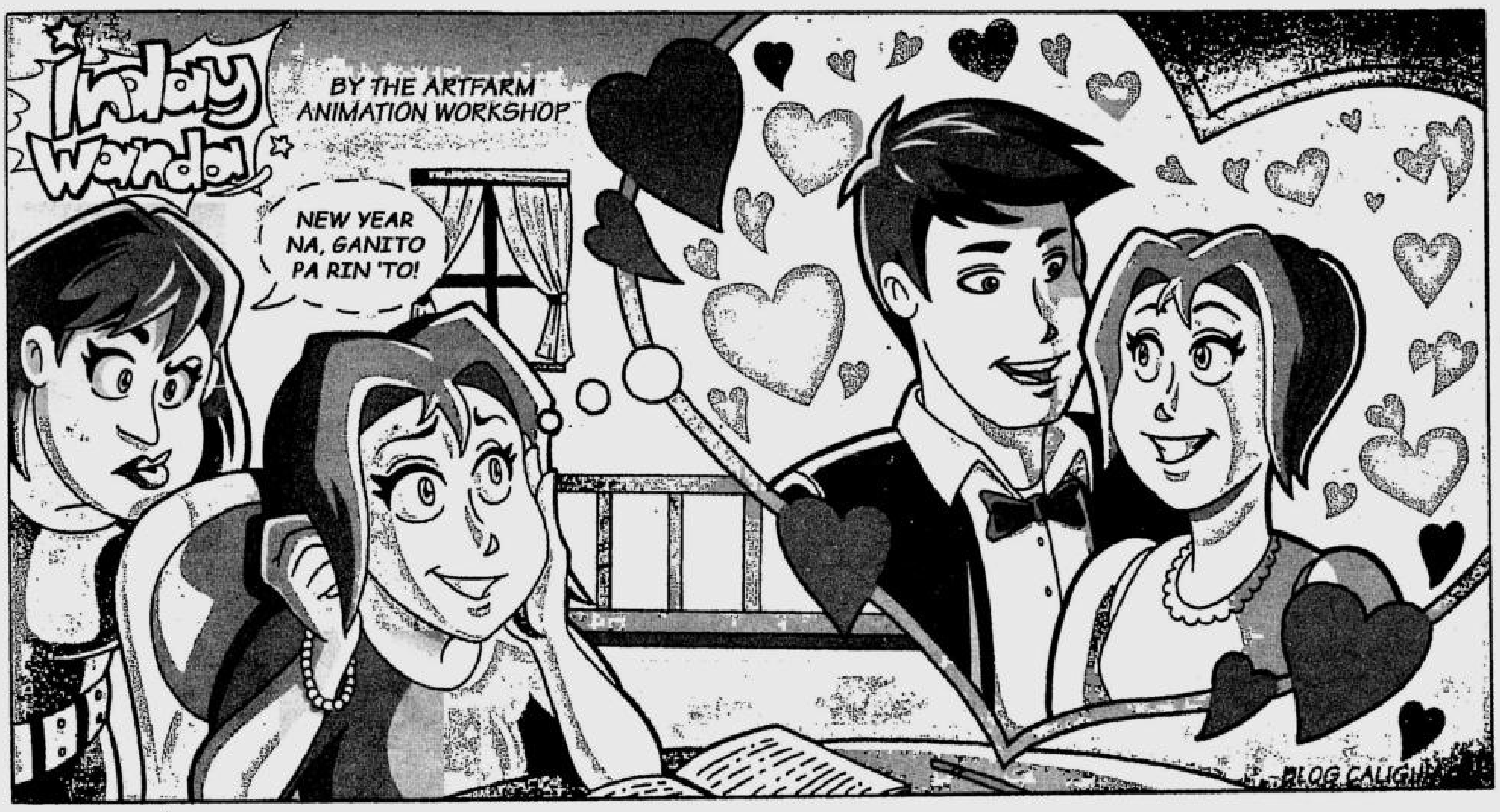
Read the Inquirer Comics Sunday and get a chance to win weekly prizes from Ragnarok, Filbars and Fully Booked or a PC in the Grand Draw! Text INQVOTE to 291 (SMART) and 2949 (Globe) now!*
Congratulations to this week's winners: 1) **Dennis D. Godoy, Manila 2) Kimberly Ann Moore, San Marcelino, Zambales , 3) Brian O. Gam, Cagayan De Oro City**
To claim your prizes, please call (02)897-8808 loc. 352. Look for Mr. Dennis Leung

*SEE PROMO PRINT ADS FOR DETAILS

INDAY WANDA

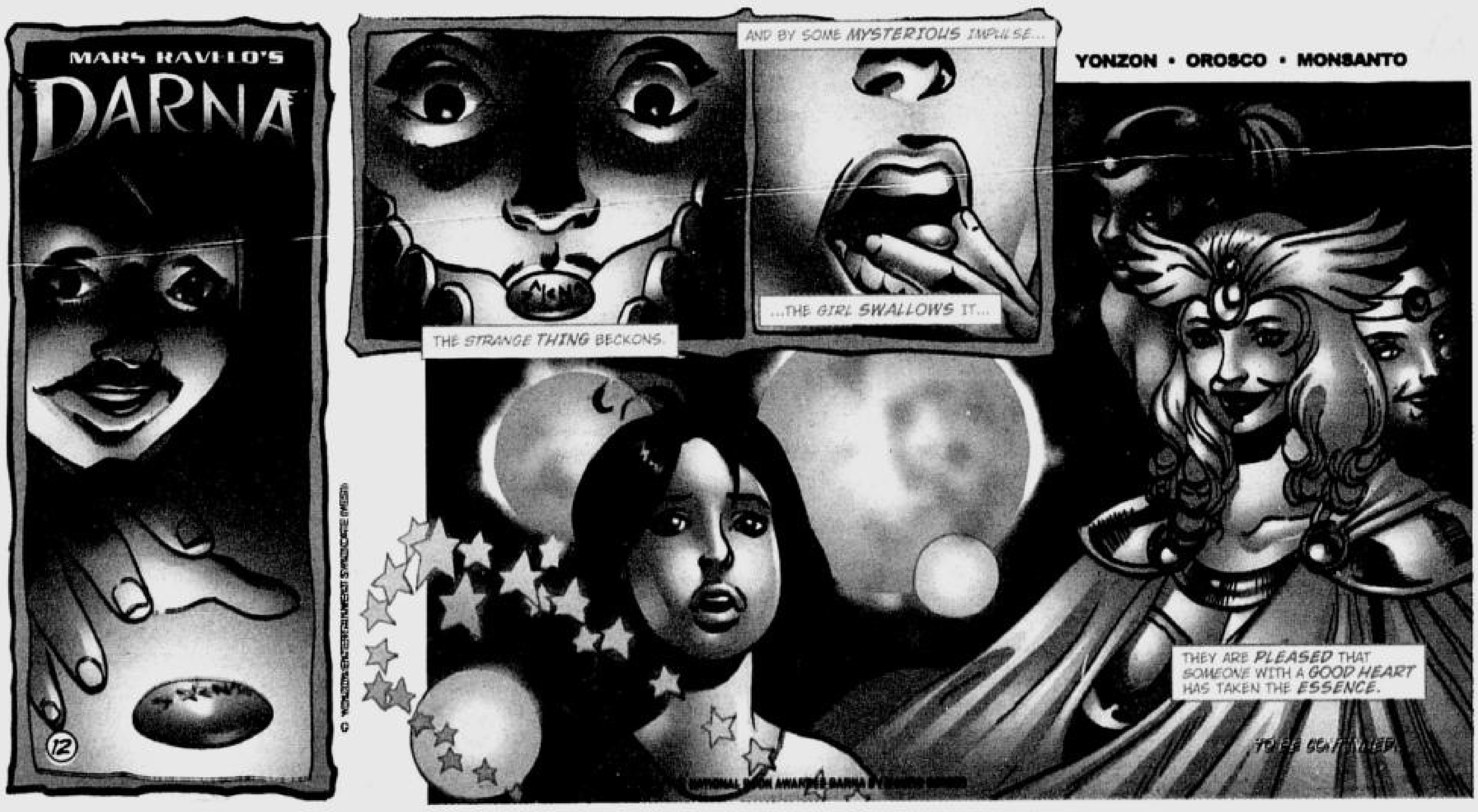
BY BLOG CALIGUIA


Inday Wanda
BY THE ARTFARM ANIMATION WORKSHOP
NEW YEAR NA, GANITO PA RIN 'TO!
BLOG CALIGUIA

DARNA

BY MANGO COMICS

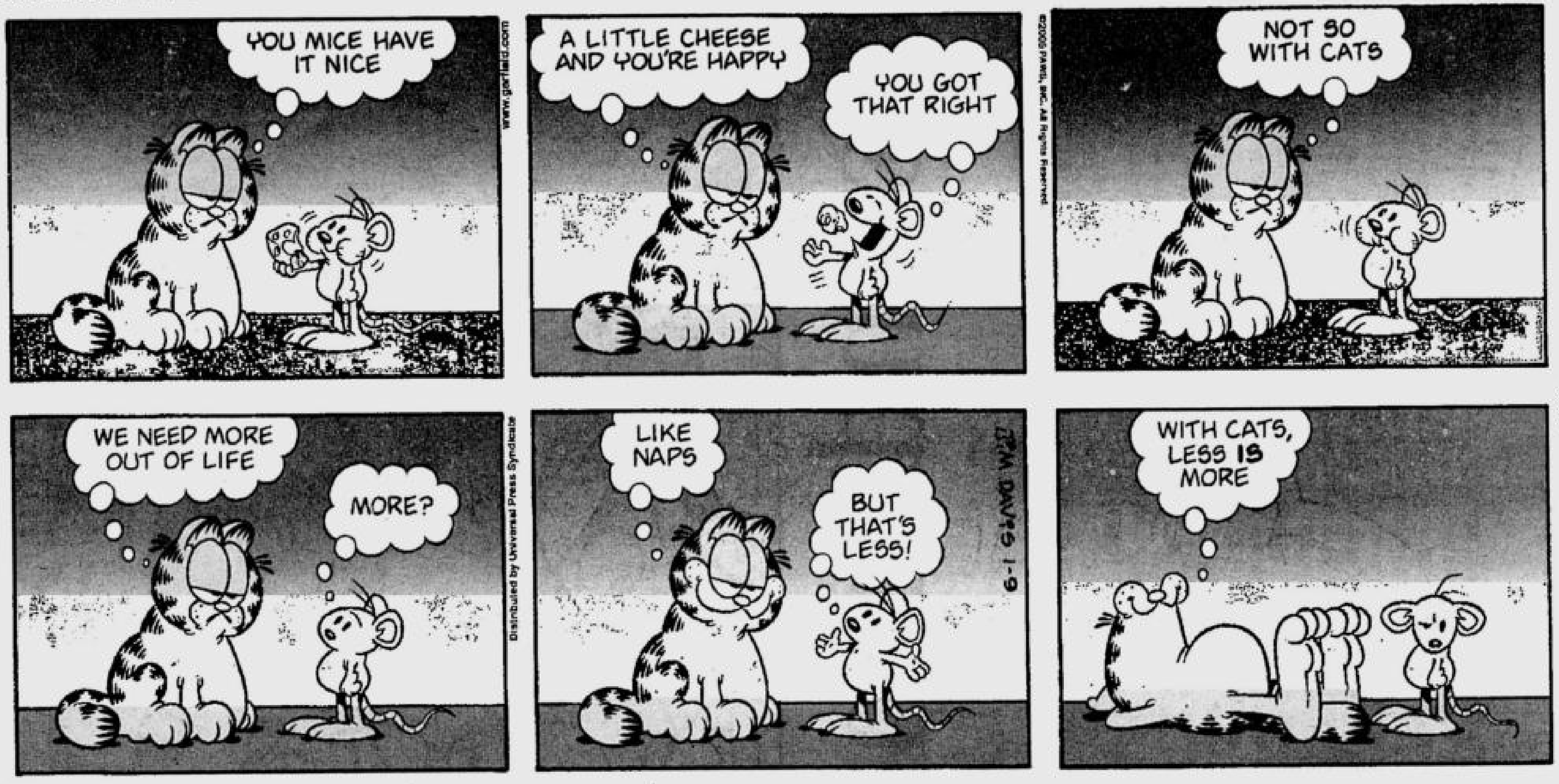
YONZON • OROSCO • MONSANTO


MARS RAVELO'S
DARNA
12
THE STRANGE THING BECKONS.
AND BY SOME MYSTERIOUS IMPULSE...
...THE GIRL SWALLOWS IT...
THEY ARE PLEASED THAT SOMEONE WITH A GOOD HEART HAS TAKEN THE ESSENCE.
TO BE CONTINUED!

A. FOLD OUT AT CENTER TO GET THE BIG PICTURE

GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS


YOU MICE HAVE IT NICE
A LITTLE CHEESE AND YOU'RE HAPPY
YOU GOT THAT RIGHT
NOT SO WITH CATS
WE NEED MORE OUT OF LIFE
MORE?
LIKE NAPS
BUT THAT'S LESS!
WITH CATS, LESS IS MORE
JIM DAVIS 1-9

www.garfield.com

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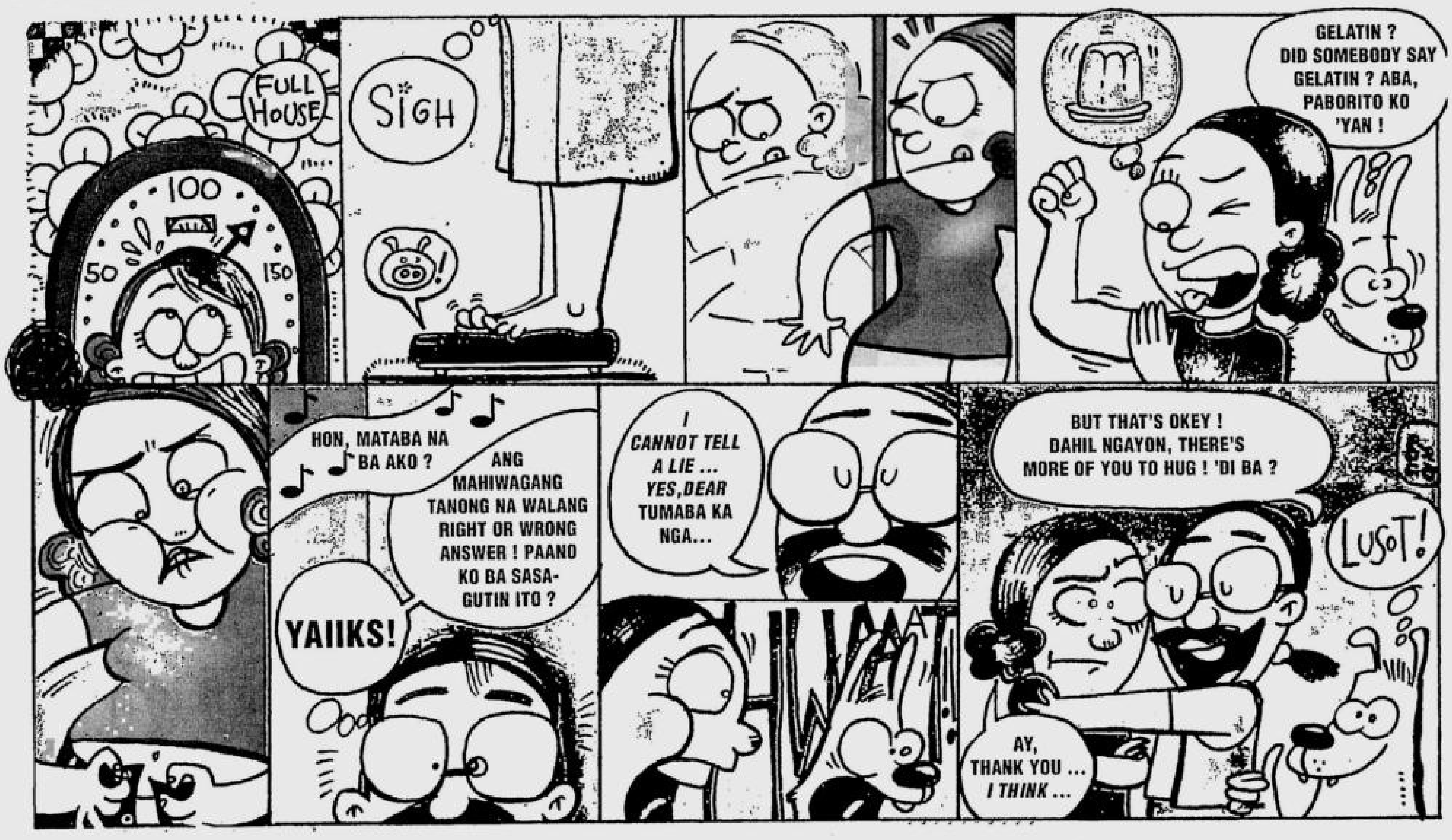
FULL HOUSE

BY STEPH BRAVO


FULL HOUSE
100
50
150
SIGH
!
GELATIN ? DID SOMEBODY SAY GELATIN ? ABA, PABORITO KO 'YAN !
HON, MATABA NA BA AKO ?
ANG MAHIWAGANG TANONG NA WALANG RIGHT OR WRONG ANSWER ! PAANO KO BA SASAGUTIN ITO ?
YAIIKS!
I CANNOT TELL A LIE ... YES,DEAR TUMABA KA NGA...
WHAT
BUT THAT'S OKEY ! DAHIL NGAYON, THERE'S MORE OF YOU TO HUG ! 'DI BA ?
LUSOT!
AY, THANK YOU ... I THINK ...

B. TURN THE PAGE TO GET IT RIGHT

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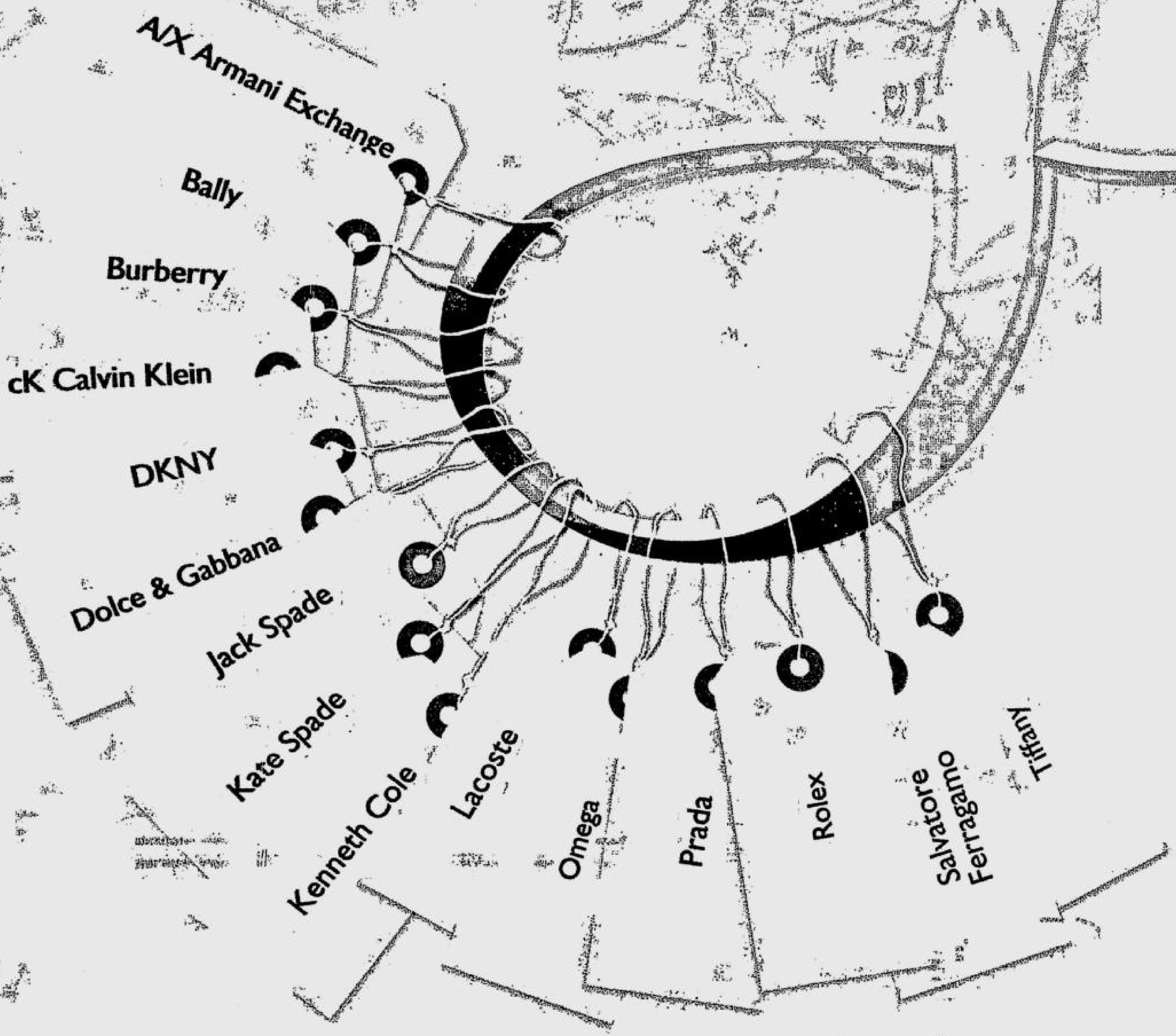
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How green is this valley

Text and photos
by Jude Thaddeus L. Bautista
Contributor

AS we were hiking up one of the many tough inclines, ready to give up from the sheer effort, the vista opened before us, revealing a valley of green terraces.

Calling it spectacular would be an understatement. The terraces seemed like huge green staircases leading down to a small stage at the bottom where huts were assembled. The valley formed a circular shape, like a natural amphitheater designed for giants. No one had to tell us we were finally looking at the Batad "amphitheater."

The rest of the group had marched on to our accommodations, the Hillside Inn, while I just kept on taking pictures. The exhaustion everyone felt seemed to fade as we entered a shangri-la-like barangay. Hiking the difficult trail was more than justified.

It took us nearly an hour and a half of hiking. The ascent was slow but still tedious. We had cut a considerable distance riding a jeep to our jump-off point at the Batad junction.

We gave a lift to a middle-aged Brit who had hiked all the way from Banaue. We saw another white-haired tourist hiking by himself, but he waved us off when we offered a ride.

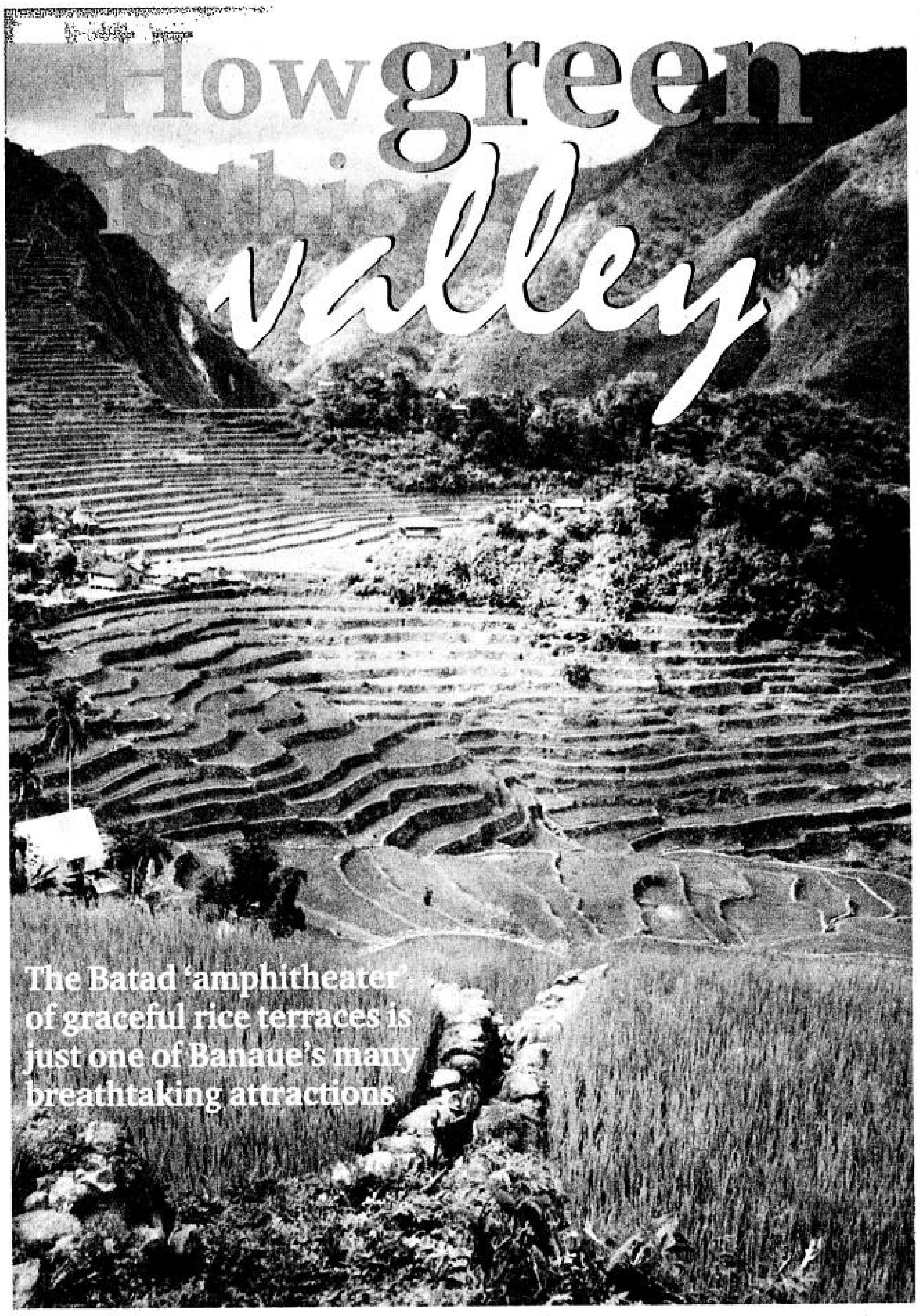
Much of the road from Banaue to Batad was rocky and in desperate need of repair. Although it was a bumpy ride, thank God we had the Banaue information center to take care of our packaged tour—from getting a jeep that would take us to the jump-off point to arranging for knowledgeable and qualified guides.

One cannot overestimate the value of qualified guides to make every hike as safe as possible. What made this tour special was that it was designed and operated by the locals themselves, thus benefiting the community a hundred percent.

So instead of depleting the surrounding forests, the locals are encouraged to preserve them for tourism, which they earn from. Warner Andrada of the Department of Tourism's Product Research division explained this to us over a few drinks.

That night, we drank beer on the terrace overlooking the natural amphitheater, which was pitch-black dark. There was no electricity to light up the homes, or to run loud karaoke machines that would drive you insane in some other remote towns in the country.

There was only eerie silence. Then Warner said, "Look at those fireflies." They were beautiful—a tree not far from our terrace lit up by hundreds of fireflies. Little green specks of light were dancing incessantly in the darkness. Warner told us of the local belief that spirits and *engkantos* resided in trees where fireflies converged.



The Batad 'amphitheater' of graceful rice terraces is just one of Banaue's many breathtaking attractions

THE STONE terraces up close

A VIEW of the Majestic Tappia Falls from the ridge

Tappia Falls

The following morning, we were off to visit Tappia Falls. Derek Gano, the head guide, was literally cheering us up as we hiked. He reminded me more of a talk show host than a trek guide.

I was assigned a different route with two guides of my own. We took a more circuitous path going around the amphitheater. It was a more tiring route but was worth the extra effort. The longer route allowed me to see the structure of the terraces more closely.

On closer inspection, the walls turned out to be made of stone. That was why from above, they looked more uniform and well-built. They also maintained their shape over a longer period of time than terraces made with mud.

In the distance, we saw the native huts constructed on logs. I was warned against taking photos without asking permission from the villagers. When we got there, I understood why. The villagers explained that there was a special corner where their forebears' remains were housed, and this was off limits to visitors.

The entrance of the huts were adorned with carabao and wild boar skulls. These skulls represented the rank of the resident in the village.

After we left the village, the path to the falls got more and more difficult. It would be wise for anyone thinking of trying this tour to physically and mentally prepare for it. But eventually, we heard the thunderous roar of rushing water. Then as we reached the bend, a gentle mist greeted us.

The view of the majestic Tappia Falls from the ridge energized our tired bodies. A 150-feet wall of white water was rushing down, and a gentle breeze swept mists of water upwards, reaching us. We spent a good many hours in this blessed site.

The way back was a lot easier and shorter than my original route. We easily made it back to our beds at Hillside Inn way before dark. Just before the light was fading, Warner pointed to a high ridge that he said we could tour via the Umbulu trail next time.

I can't wait to come back here for it.

THEIR customs are a means for the Ifugao to show the world who they are.

Banner site for ecotourism

THE DEPARTMENT of Tourism, with the help of the New Zealand Agency for International Development (NZAID), has designated Banaue (and surrounding barangays such as Batad) banner site for ecotourism.

New Zealand is one of the most established trekking destinations in the world.

This means local communities are now directly involved in tourism. Apart from directly benefiting financially as trek guides, shop owners etc., the locals also become responsible for the environment. As custodians, they have the responsibility to protect the environment.

The new arrangement also gives them an incentive to preserve their old ways and customs. Public ceremonies and the like will allow the Ifugao to show visitors the uniqueness of their ancient culture.

NZAID has funded a number of projects, including a Guide Enhancement Training, First Aid and Rescue Training, and the Tourist Information Center at the town square, to help develop tourism and truly make it a safe activity.

Trekkers can visit the info center, the most visible of the projects, to find a certified guide, hire transportation or find out the schedules of festivals and other activities. *Jude Bautista*

TRAVELBRIEFS

Appeal to help aid workers

Asia Miles, Cathay Pacific's frequent-flyer program, has issued an appeal for members to donate miles to partner charities in order to fly relief workers to areas hit by the region's recent earthquake and tidal waves. The program charity partners are Oxfam Hong Kong, Unicef, Orbis and Care Housing Society. Donations made will be matched by Asia Miles. Call 7571313.

Phuket returns to normal

Thai Airways has announced that only very little of Phuket's infrastructure is closed to the public. More than 80 percent of hotel rooms remain open to business because only a small percentage of the restaurants, shops, bars and attractions have been disrupted. Other beach resort destinations in Thailand like those at Samui, Hua Hin and Pattaya are untouched and remain in perfect condition. Thai Airways flies from Manila 10 times weekly to Bangkok and daily to Osaka. Call your travel agent or Thai Airways at 8124744 or log on to www.thaiairways.com.

Caribbean cruise raffle prize

Landco Pacific's Club Punta Fuego is conducting a raffle promo that gives new club shareholders a chance to win an all-expense paid cruise to the Caribbean. The winner will go on a week-long Caribbean cruise aboard Cunard's Queen Mary 2, the largest and grandest ocean liner in the world, that will take him/her across the Atlantic Ocean, with stops in four Caribbean Islands.

First stop is Fort Lauderdale in Florida, dubbed the "Venice of America." Other destinations are San Juan, where Spanish citadels, pristine beaches and natural resources thrive; and Danish-influenced Philipsburg, with its lush plantations.

Capping the Caribbean tour is a trip to Charlotte Amalie, capital of the United States Virgin Islands and the most popular cruise port in the Caribbean.

The promo is part of the world class perks and privileges enjoyed by Club Punta Fuego shareholders. Members of the club enjoy the top-of-the-line amenities and services of both Terrazas and Peninsula de Punta Fuego that were developed by Landco Pacific.

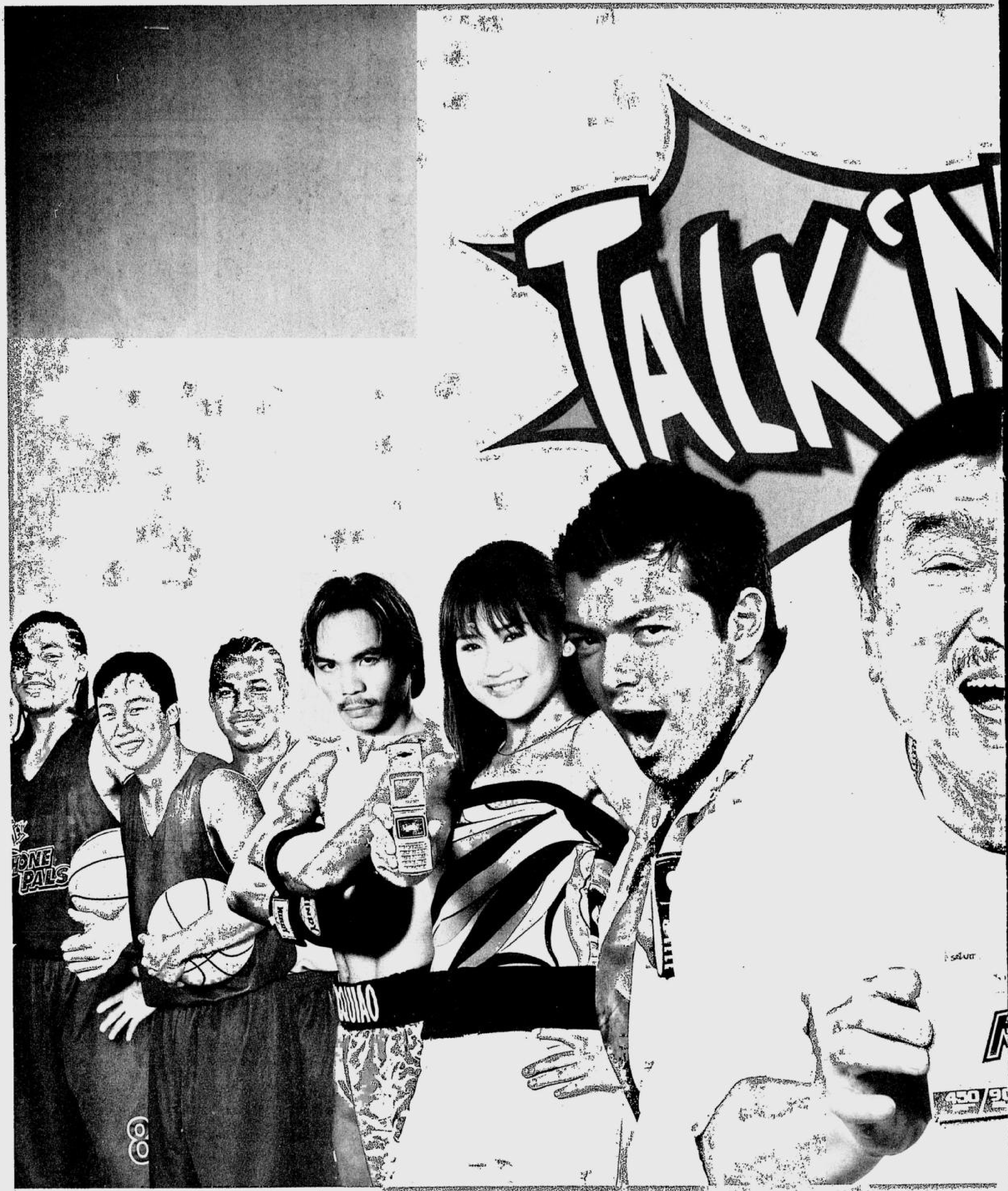
Dream getaway winners

Mandarin Oriental Manila has announced the winners of its 2004 Dream Getaway promotion, a dual holiday treat for the hotel's local guests. Joanne Torres won the grand prize of a Hong Kong holiday. Her prize includes two round-trip economy class tickets courtesy of Cathay Pacific Airways, and a two-night stay in a harbor view room at the Mandarin Oriental Hong Kong, including daily American breakfast for two persons. Mandarin Oriental Hong Kong, considered one of the world's great hotels since it opened in 1963, is at Central Hong Kong's commercial and banking districts, overlooking the Victoria Harbour.

The other promo winner, Dr. Eribert Esguerra, will fly to Palawan courtesy of Air Philippines for a three-day, two-night package for two in a garden cottage at Dos Palmas Arreceffi Island Resort. The package includes welcome drink; round trip land and boat transfers; breakfast, lunch and dinner for two; complimentary coffee and/or tea throughout the day; one introductory dive per person for non-divers inclusive of diving gear or one service from the Tropical Spa, services of a guest officer and marine sports guide, use of swimming pool and jacuzzi, kayaks, mask, fins, snorkel, speedboat transfers, children's playground and resort bikes.

Prizes in previous raffle draws included holidays in Davao at Marco Polo Hotel and Pearl Farm Beach Resort on Samal Island, the Plantation Bay Resort and Spa in Cebu, the Punta Fuego Resort in Batangas and the Taal Vista Lodge in Cavite. Air Philippines flew winners to the southern islands, while Dollar Rent-a-Car brought the winners to the Southern Tagalog resorts.

HALL OF FAME. Travel Saver Inc. president Thelma Trivilio (second from left) accepts Hall of Fame award for consistent top performance from Korean national carrier Asiana Airlines regional manager Hyun Il Kim, Clark manager Sang Ju Kim, sales supervisor Jeannie Magluyan and Asiana Philippines GM Rene Banzon. Other travel agencies honored included Marsman Tours and Travel Corp., MNK Travel, Pioneer Travel, Kana Philtour, Kim's Travel, Uni-Orient Travel, Inc., Yeson Travel & Tours, Inc., Pan Pacific Travel Corp., Clark International Travel Agency and Getaway Tours.



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40 AND FABULOUS. Nanette de Leon and Cow Santos

STYLISH designers Roseanne de Pampelonne and Ramon Antonio

LOVELY couple Paz and Manny Tanjangco

ELEGANT pair Benny and Bettina de Leon

An inkling of my golden wedding anniversary

TESSA!

Tessa Prieto-Valdes

JUST when I thought I had reached the phase of my pregnancy where I can just hibernate and wear jogging pants all day, invitations have been trickling in for various celebrations—wedding anniversaries, birthday parties, art exhibits, fund-raising fashion shows and restaurant openings.

January kicked into social high gear with an enchanted evening of Broadway songs, as lovable couple **Paing** and **Mely Hechanova** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. By my calculation, my faithful (so far) husband **Dennis** and I will be both in our 80s on our 50th. With our generation marrying at a later stage in life, celebrating this occasion would be both a physical and emotional challenge.

Even with the economy being pulled down by unfavorable forces, life has to go on. The production numbers of the Paing and Mely Show were so impressive and entertaining. A star-studded, Repertory-and-musical-theater cast serenaded the couple's guests with timeless Broadway hits. I was quite amazed that my "Look Who's Talking" co-host, **Anton San Diego** knew which musical the songs were from. Dennis said we would ask him to sing at our 50th anniversary. By that time, Ricky Martin's "She Bangs" will be considered a classic.

Sensational diva **Bituin Escalante** once again performed with her signature vocal prowess, which was complemented by the Manila Philharmonic Orchestra. The entire show—written, staged and directed by renowned **Freddie Santos**—was so extraordinary that it seemed like an elaborate TV production. As all the performers belted their songs through the gastronomical feat executed by Le Soufflé, photos and videos were shown of the Hechanova's past five decades.

> At the Hechanova golden wedding anniversary, I thought of my own 50th anniversary. I would be 80 by then

Forty years from now, I can only wish to be blessed with as many wonderful friends, children and grandchildren as Paing and Mely, who are further blessed with good health and high spirits.

Birthdays

Last week several relatives and friends also celebrated birthdays. One of my favorite cousins, **Nanette de Leon**, turned 40 and she marked her natal day with an intimate dinner for her classmates from Assumption College and friends. She was one of the participants at my own 40th adventure party and she recounted that she was so exhausted the next day, though she had an awesome time. Forty truly is a good age for women!

Exactly the same day, Jan. 11, is the birthday of delightful **Paz Tanjangco**, who just arrived from a shopping trip in Vietnam. Still high on the Asian fever, she got all her relatives to come in their Vietnamese outfits and celebrated the evening with Asian cuisine. (I also want to pass on greetings to a third Jan. 11 celebrator, **Kit Zobel**. Kit and I have known each other forever and I wish her all the best!)

Over on the more socially elaborate side of things, for his "pre-birthday" celebration, INQUIRER Super's **Tim Yap** hosted an "intimate" dinner for 50 at the new, ultra stylish Embassy restaurant at The Fort. In Tim's terms, 50 guests are firmly in his "intimate" category since his parties can literally run into a cast of thousands. After spending the majority of his Christmas holiday in sunny Boracay, he was in full party mode and enjoyed the company of his dearest friends.

Embassy is the hottest destination in the Fort, positioning itself as a restaurant serving sumptuous French-Japanese cuisine that transforms into a lounge bar until early morning. With this new nightspot, the Ayala-owned Fort has something new and exciting to attract the swinging urbanites away from… Ayala-owned Greenbelt! Oh well, as they say on ETC, "it's all good!"

Throughout the numerous costume evolutions both Tim and I have been through, I have grown so fond of him that I forget how young he is compared to me. Chronologically he is in the Ragnarok generation, but somehow is so driven and focused on his goals in life that we are so mentally compatible. I guess this trait does set him apart from the rest of his age group. He has built INQUIRER Super almost single-handedly (though he could have not done it without his very talented and aggressive core group) into the verve of the Saturday issue of the broadsheet.

Right after the Embassy affair, my fairy god-dresser **Rajo Laurel** and I headed to the magazine launch and photo exhibit of Icon Magazine at Government. This publication features personalities and stories of the gay world. As it comes of age, or perhaps just comes out, Icon fits the growing need for information on alternative lifestyles.

At the launch party, called Diversite, images of love photos by **Raymund Isaac** were auctioned off, with proceeds going to the Remedios Foundation. One of the photos was of Rajo and I expounding on true friendship.

Art, fashion shows

The art scene is as well thriving with new upcoming artists showcasing their talents. On Jan. 19, modern abstract artist **Manix Genabe** will exhibit his first collection of cubist acrylic paintings at Restaurant Uva in Greenbelt 2. In his early 20s, Manix didn't start out as an artist but has had several professions like web designer and store manager before realizing his true passion.

After some encouragement from friends, he made this collection, inspired by his personal experiences. Here is another example of a guy with some firm direction in life. His exhibit will run until Feb. 9.

Another upcoming event of a different kind is a dinner/fashion show organized by the 1980 high school batches of Assumption and La Salle Greenhills. The joint benefit show is on Jan. 27 at the NBC Tent and will feature personalities from the alumni from both schools, such as Sen. **Kiko Pangilinan** and **Ralph Recto**, and First Daughter **Luli Arroyo**. Store Specialists will be providing the outfits for the fund-raising event. I wonder if some Ateneans will attend this affair!

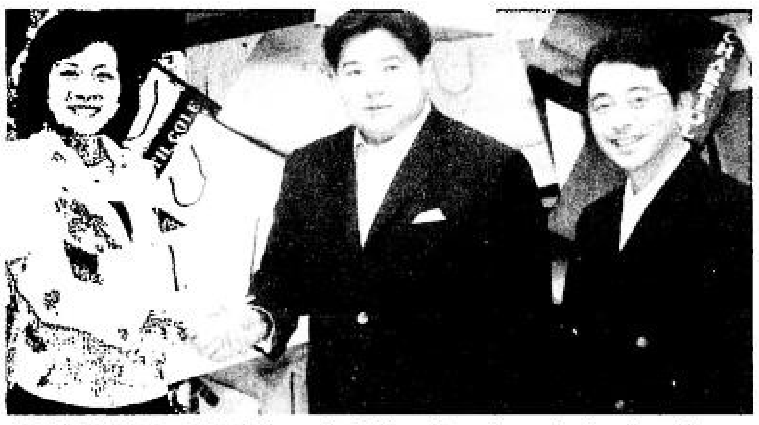
E-mail me at seaprincess@inquirer.com.ph

GOLDEN couple Mely and Paing Hechanova

HECHANOVA gems Renna Angeles and Raissa Posadas

NEXT generation. Rafael and mom Gina Hechanova

VIETNAMESE-DRESSED guests


ASSUMPTA Con Verde benefit fashion show: Jeannie Javelosa, Anton Huang and Ram Antonio

EMBASSY LAUNCH. Jon Herrera, Mariano and Erik Cua, Kaye and Mayor Freddie Tinga, chef Fernando Aracama and Tim Yap

BEGINNINGS Art Exhibit artist, Manix Genabe

HIGH-SCHOOL classmates Ella Gana, Malou Fores, Marites Enriquez and Joy Lagdameo

FAMILY friends Max and Rica Geronimo and Cory and Nonoy Alindogan

GOVERNMENT party friends Richard Danao, Markus Schmidt and Avi Siwa

ICON Magazine's Richie Villarin, Suki Salvador and photographer Raymund Isaac

PRETTY guests at Embassy: Dawn Zulueta, Robina Pe and Cindy Kurleto

Concert captivates Cebu

COOKY Chua

COOKY Chua, Noel Cabangon, Paolo Santos, Jett Pangan and a whole night of acoustic music made up Philip Morris 100s' recent staging of Strings and Sofas, a concert series of the finest acoustic music and artists, at the grand ballroom of Waterfront Hotel in Lahug recently.

"With Strings and Sofas, we hope to thank the loyal smokers of Philip Morris 100s through a special. The contemporary music festival had a setting where smokers could relax and converse with their friends," said Philip Morris Philippines Manufacturing Inc. managing director Chris Nelson.

Monstrous traffic didn't deter hundreds of Cebu's yuppies, fashionistas, and corporate executives from trooping to the venue. The enthusiastic crowd was treated to a pre-show cocktail of gourmet food and overflowing wines and cocktail drinks.

Favorite local acoustic performers Chua, formerly of the now defunct Color It Red, Cabangon, Mr. "Kanlungan" himself, Santos, the premiere Mr. Acoustic of the country and The Dawn's frontman Pangan treated the crowd with their own renditions of the great and timeless music masterpieces transformed into a more soulful, soothing rhythm in the two-hour show.

Philip Morris 100s loyal followers are assured that this unforgettable night is just the beginning of a "string" of intimate and entertaining Strings and Sofas in 2005.

PHILIP Morris Philippines marketing director Maarten Kila with his team Rhycel Marcelo, Igee Tolentino and Guthrie Collado

NOEL Cabangon

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NO MENTION OF JENNIFER'S NAME

Press people who met Brad Pitt placed under gag orders

RINGLESS Pitt

TOKYO—Hollywood hunk Brad Pitt was swarmed by reporters and fans Thursday as he jetted into Japan, his first appearance since his shocking breakup with Jennifer Aniston—but those who got close were warned not to mention her name.

Pitt, his finger no longer circled with the famous wedding ring designed exclusively for him and Aniston, was on a scheduled visit to promote his new film. His publicists worked tirelessly to ensure that "Ocean's Twelve" remained the topic.

With several reporters flying from Hollywood hoping for a big scoop, foreign media were kept at the door as Pitt, wearing a leather jacket and the trademark blond stubble, told a press conference what a hit the movie was bound to be.

The 700 reporters and 150 cameramen covering the event had to promise not to release their footage to foreign media and were put under gag orders against asking about the demise of one of the world's most glamorous couples.

The Daily Sports tabloid reported that Pitt canceled all 10 interviews slated with Japanese television on Thursday.

According to media reports, costar George Clooney turned into Pitt's protector, beginning the press conference by joking: "I know that there has been a certain topic on everyone's lips for the past few days, so I am happy to tell you that my neck is all right."

"Ocean's Twelve" stars Pitt, Clooney and Matt Damon arrived via private jet late Wednesday at Narita airport, where hundreds of screaming fans, brandishing mobile telephones, took photos of the stars.

When one reporter at the airport dared ask why Pitt was back on the singles market, Clooney butted in.

"Shame on you!" Clooney told the reporter as Pitt smiled and signed autographs.

Aniston and Pitt announced last Friday they were calling it quits after four and a half years, sending Hollywood media into a frenzy to figure out what had happened.

Pitt, 41, reportedly wanted to start a family, something Aniston, 35, wanted to put off in favor of her career.

And then there was speculation that what tore them apart was Esquire magazine's sexiest woman of last year—Angelina Jolie, who grew close to Pitt as they played a couple in "Mr. and Mrs. Smith."

The gossip was on the lips of the Japanese fans, some of whom lined up hours in advance for a red-carpet reception for Pitt at the Roppongi Hills shopping complex.

"It was very sad. I thought they would make it. I like Jennifer Aniston very much and the couple looked so nice together," said sales clerk Setsu Ito, 29.

About the Jolie rumors, she said: "I hope it's not true. He is too good for her." Pitt and Aniston, anticipating a rain of speculation, tried last week to shoot down the rumors.

"This decision is the result of much thoughtful consideration," they said in a statement. "We happily remain committed and caring friends with great love and admiration for one another." *AFP*

COMMITTED as friends. Aniston

Teener recounts sexual abuse in Neverland

SHOW STOPPER

MOONWALKER. Jackson has denied the charges and his representatives said his accuser and his parents were seeking to extort money from the star.

LOS ANGELES—The teenage boy who has accused Michael Jackson of molesting him gave a grand jury graphic accounts of being masturbated by the singer, ABC News said on Thursday after reviewing the secret testimony.

ABC said that its "Primetime Live" program on Thursday night was airing verbatim quotes from the 1,900 pages of grand jury testimony it obtained in which the boy describes Jackson masturbating him when he was 13 years old and living at the singer's Neverland estate in central California.

Jackson, the "moonwalking" superstar who has portrayed himself as a modern-day Peter Pan, has been indicted on 10 counts of child molestation and conspiracy. He has denied the charges and his representatives said the boy and his parents were seeking to extort money from him.

The account marks the first details to emerge of the alleged molestation of the now 15-year-old boy who claims that Jackson abused him on several occasions at Neverland in February and March of 2003.

ABC quoted Jackson's accuser, 14 when he testified last spring, as saying: "We were laying on the bed and he told me that men have to masturbate. He told me that he wanted to teach me . . . so we were laying in the bed, and . . . he put his hand down my pants and he started rubbing me . . . my private area . . ."

The prosecutor asked him, "Did you look over to see his eyes at any time?" The boy answered, "Yes" and added, "His eyes were like squinching really tight." The prosecutor asked the youth if Jackson, 46, ever talked to him later "about those occasions," and the boy answered, "No."

ABC said the prosecutor then asked the boy "Did you at any time touch Mr. Jackson?" He answered, "No. He wanted me to, but I didn't. I said no and I pulled my hand away."

Seven bedroom locks

The transcripts said the youngster, a recovering cancer patient, claimed Jackson had plied him with alcohol despite his medical condition. "Well, it wasn't really a good idea for me (sic) drinking because I only had one kidney, I only have one kidney. And so it harms my kidney for I drink that stuff (sic). But he would just say, 'It's OK.' And he would just keep on telling me to drink," he reportedly alleged.

The boy's younger brother also gave evidence, telling grand jurors that Jackson had walked around naked in front of the children and given his brother alcohol in a can while on a flight from Miami to Los Angeles.

During a screening of the horror movie "The Devil's Backbone" at Neverland, Jackson walked into the room without his clothes on, the child reportedly said. "He was nude—he started to tell us it was natural—it's just normal," he said.

The boy also told of elaborate security precautions in place in Michael Jackson's bedroom. "There's a bell. There's a sensor—there's seven locks," he said.

Sealed material

Jackson's chief lawyer, Thomas Mesereau, denounced the program, saying in a statement that ABC had revealed material ordered sealed by the judge.

"We strongly object to the 'leak' of the grand jury testimony. The witnesses who testified before the grand jury were never subjected to cross-examination or impeachment by the defense," he said, adding: "By law, no judge or defense lawyer was allowed to be present in the grand jury room. Furthermore, the defense had no opportunity to call its own witnesses to refute or criticize this one-sided proceeding."

ABC said the youth, his brother, sister and mother, testified before the 19-member grand jury in Santa Barbara County, California, in the spring.

They were among 41 witnesses heard over 14 days.

Both Jackson's lawyers and the prosecutors are under a court order not to speak about the case. An ABC spokesperson would not comment on how "Primetime" obtained the testimony.

The judge in the case delayed a ruling on Wednesday on whether accusations of sexual abuse previously made against Jackson would be allowed into the trial. Jackson's lawyers have called the evidence flimsy but prosecutors said it showed a pattern of abuse of young boys.

Santa Barbara Superior Court Judge Rodney Melville said he was not inclined to consider evidence that Jackson may have sexually abused other boys until he heard the bulk of the prosecution's case against the entertainer.

"This case will be won in the courtroom and not through 'leaks' in the media," Mesereau said. "When he has his day in court, Michael Jackson will be acquitted and vindicated."

The singer was arrested on Nov. 20, 2003, and remains free on a $3-million bail. *Reuters, AFP*

'A Chorus Line' to form again on Broadway

TOUGH TASK. "The challenge is to make it fresh and new for 2006," says the original director's lawyer.

NEW YORK—"A Chorus Line," the legendary Michael Bennett musical, will kick again on Broadway.

The story of dancers auditioning for a big Broadway show will open Sept. 21, 2006, according to John Breglio, who was the attorney for Bennett, its original director and choreographer.

"For many years, people kept telling me that it had to come back," Breglio said Wednesday in an interview with The Associated Press. "The challenge is to take that original show, keep its integrity, but make it fresh and new for 2006. That's not an easy task."

Breglio will produce the revival, which will include many of the show's original creators, including Bennett's co-choreographer, Bob Avian, who will direct the new production, and original set designer Robin Wagner. Bennett died of AIDS in 1987.

15-year run

"I didn't want to wait a lot longer," the entertainment lawyer said. "There has to be another generation of people not only experiencing Michael's work but dancers who experience his style and his genius."

The show, which has a score by composer Marvin Hamlisch and lyricist Ed Kleban, originally opened off-Broadway in April 1975 at the New York Shakespeare Festival's Public Theater before moving to Broadway. It ran for 6,137 performances, closing in 1990. It was the longest-running Broadway show of its time—but has since been overtaken by "Cats" and "The Phantom of the Opera."

"'A Chorus Line,' for me, defines why a lot of people went into this business and why a lot of people love musicals," Breglio said. "It was the beginning for so many of us."

Hardest part

The lawyer pointed to casting as the most critical challenge facing the new production. For that reason, Breglio didn't want to do the show, which has a book by James Kirkwood and Nicholas Dante, without Avian and Wagner.

"I don't think that the first time you bring the show back to Broadway, you can deconstruct it. 'A Chorus Line' represents the ultimate in musical-theater collaboration."

But some things won't be the same.

When "A Chorus Line" first opened on Broadway its top ticket price was $15. Today, most musicals have a top price of $100. The show's original Broadway budget was $1.1 million. Breglio expects the revival to cost nearly $8 million. In 1975, its potential weekly box-office gross was $142,000 at the Shubert Theatre; today, it would be $1 million. *AP*

VIENNA BOYS CHOIR. Former members include Haydn, Schubert, Mozart.

LP hosts Vienna Boys

LAS PIÑAS Rep. Cynthia Villar (in yellow) joins organist Armando Salarza (extreme left), Ester Adsuara of the Bamboo Organ Foundation board of trustees, Bamboo Organ Administration consultant Jen Salvador and members of the Las Piñas Bamboo Organ Choir.

ALL roads led to the city of Las Piñas last month as music lovers trooped to witness two world-class icons in international music—the Vienna Boys Choir of Austria and our very own Las Piñas Bamboo Organ.

The world-renowned Vienna Boys Choir of Austria, a group of young men wearing sailor uniforms, wowed Filipino audiences in their much-awaited Philippine concert tour. Their angelic voices soared as they performed at the St. Joseph Church, back-to-back with the world-famous Las Piñas Bamboo Organ.

Las Piñas Rep. Cynthia Villar was in the audience with her husband, Sen. Manny Villar, as well as Budget and Management Sec. Emilia Boncodin.

"It is an honor for us to host the Philippine leg of the Vienna Boys Choir tour," gushed Rep. Villar. "Their music is great and captivating."

Earlier, Rep. Villar conveyed her gratitude to Austria through a letter to the Austrian ambassador, to the Philippines Dr. Christian Krepela.

The choir's performance in Las Piñas was under the baton of Martin Schebesta and keyboard master Armando Salarza.

The choir was established in 1498 by Hapsburg Emperor Maximilian I to sing exclusively for the imperial court. The choir was formed as a private group in 1921, which was also when the singers began wearing the sailor suit.

Every year, three groups, each consisting of 25 boys aged 10-14 years old tour the world, while the fourth group stays in Vienna to sing during services in the imperial chapel.

Former Vienna Boys Choir members include Franz Joseph Haydn and Franz Schubert. Other famous composers such as Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and Anton Bruckner also worked with the choir.

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moviepickoftheWeek

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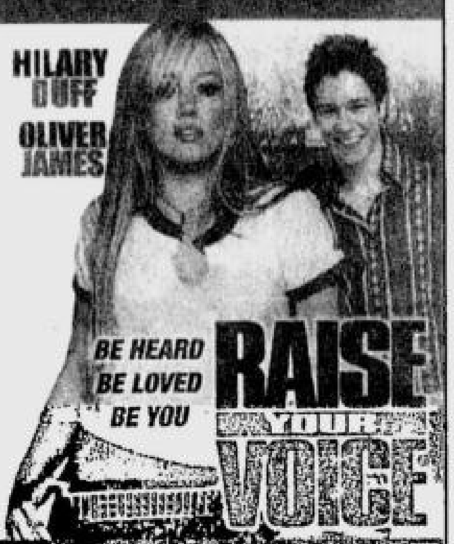

OPENS THIS WEEK

RAISE YOUR VOICE
MTRCB RATING: GP

Following the death of her brother in a car accident, a teenage girl from a small town spends the summer in Los Angeles studying at a performing arts school which exposes her to a whole new world and way of life outside the sheltered existence and social circles she's always known.

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Sta. Mesa • Southmall • Sucat

IN SEARCH OF AN IMPOTENT MAN
MTRCB RATING: R13

Carmen, a successful girl in her late twenties, has had enough. Her boyfriend is cheating on her, and at work her clients seem to believe that sex should be offered as one of the company services. Carmen puts an ad on the Internet asking to meet a sensitive, intelligent man with a good sense of humor ... but he must be impotent. What follows is a hilarious touching story of love and misunderstanding, laughter and tears, and an enjoyable roller coaster of a relationship in this joyous romantic comedy for our times.

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4 OCEAN'S TWELVE
5 SO HAPPY TOGETHER
6 IN SEARCH OF AN IMPOTENT MAN
7 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS
8 SIGAW
9 ENTENG KABISOTE
10 BLADE TRINITY
11 MANO PO 3
12 PANAGHOY SA SUBA

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1 AISHITE IMASU 1941
2 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS
3 PANAGHOY SA SUBA
4 BLADE TRINITY
5 ENTENG KABISOTE
6 OCEAN'S TWELVE
7 KUNG FU HUSTLE
8 HONEY
9 SO HAPPY TOGETHER
10 NATIONAL TREASURE
11 SIGAW
12 MANO PO 3

sm city manila
1 BLADE TRINITY
2 OCEAN'S TWELVE
3 IN SEARCH OF AN IMPOTENT MAN
4 KUNG FU HUSTLE
5 RAISE YOUR VOICE
6 BLADE TRINITY
7 SO HAPPY TOGETHER
8 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS
9 ENTENG KABISOTE
10 NATIONAL TREASURE
11 MANO PO 3
12 KUNG FU HUSTLE

sm city sta. mesa
1 BLADE TRINITY
2 SO HAPPY TOGETHER
3 KUNG FU HUSTLE
4 MANO PO 3
5 OCEAN'S TWELVE
6 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS
7 ENTENG KABISOTE
8 RAISE YOUR VOICE
9 IN SEARCH OF AN IMPOTENT MAN
10 NATIONAL TREASURE

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2 SO HAPPY TOGETHER
3 BLADE TRINITY
4 KUNG FU HUSTLE
5 NATIONAL TREASURE
6 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS
7 ENTENG KABISOTE
8 OCEAN'S TWELVE
9 MANO PO 3
10 GEORGE AND THE DRAGON

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2 SO HAPPY TOGETHER
3 MANO PO 3
4 ENTENG KABISOTE
5 RAISE YOUR VOICE
6 OCEAN'S TWELVE
7 BLADE TRINITY
8 KUNG FU HUSTLE

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1 BLADE TRINITY
2 ENTENG KABISOTE
3 IN SEARCH OF AN IMPOTENT MAN
4 KUNG FU HUSTLE

sm supercenter sucat
1 OCEAN'S TWELVE
2 KUNG FU HUSTLE
3 BLADE TRINITY
4 SO HAPPY TOGETHER

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2 ENTENG KABISOTE
3 KUNG FU HUSTLE
4 OCEAN'S TWELVE

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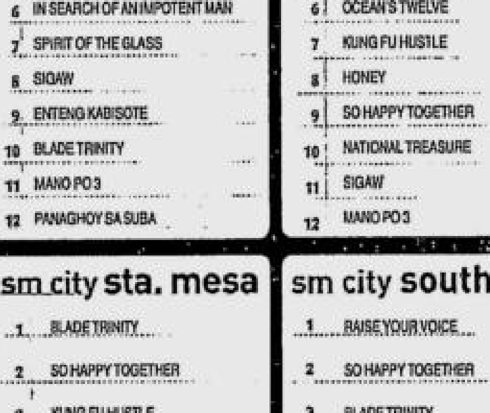

MTRCB Rating: PG13

Red Carpet
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"The girls like them chocolate brown". Remi Bonnet, a brilliant performer of Chopin, outrages his family and his teacher when he gives up an international career to play the music he has loved- Cuban music. In a city where most undocumented aliens want to become French, Remi Bonnet deliberately takes on the identity, accent and dark complexion of Felipe, his Cuban friend in order to blend into the Paris latino community and to teach Salsa dancing at the Casa Cubana...this is where he meets Nathalie, a shy girl who becomes a bomb on the dance floor.

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2 (DOLBY) KUNG FU HUSTLE PG13
3 (DOLBY) BLADE TRINITY R13
4 (DOLBY) RAISE YOUR VOICE GP

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2. AISHITE IMASU 1941
3. HAPPY TOGETHER
4. SPIRIT OF THE GLASS
5. ENTENG KABISOTE

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2 RESERVE
3 RESERVE
4 (SDDS) RESERVE
5 RESERVE
6 (DOLBY) RESERVE
7 (DTS) RESERVE
8 RESERVE
9 RESERVE

Berma Cinema
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2 PANAGHOY SA SUBA

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2 ENTENG KABISOTE
3 HELLWOLF
4 (DTS) OUT OF REACH

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(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 (DDS) IMPOTENT MAN
2 (SDDS) KUNG FU HUSTLE
3 (DTS) OCEAN'S TWELVE
4 GOLD (DTS) OCEAN'S TWELVE
5 GOLD (DOLBY) BLADE TRINITY
6 GOLD (SDDS) KUNG FU HUSTLE
7 GOLD (DOLBY) RAISE YOUR VOICE
8 [illegible] SO HAPPY TOGETHER
9 [illegible] NANG NACK
10 [illegible] GEORGE & THE DRAGON

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4 ENTENG KABISOTE
5 (DOLBY) BLADE TRINITY
6 OCEAN'S TWELVE

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Toilet Humor nightly in Malate

CLEAN FUN. Owner Lala Aunor (in red) with Nabus and guests "TV Idols"

DOES Manila need yet another comedy bar?

The owners of the new place called Toilet Humor think so.

Located at the corner of San Andres and Adriatico Streets in Malate, Toilet Humor added life to Manila's bustling night life when it began operations last November.

Already, its regular patrons will attest to the fact that the bar's performers, both stand-up comedians and singers, are not the run-of-the-mill types.

"Certainly not," said Toilet Humor marketing manager Amber Nabus of the bar's lineup of performers. "They were chosen through rigid screening to make sure clients get their money's worth."

A nightly singing contest called "Biritan sa Toilet" allows customers to have a feel of the stage.

Weekly finals are staged every Sunday, with the winners vying in the monthly finals.

The grand finals will be held in June.

The bar, which can accommodate up to 250 people, is also developing its own talents in cooperation with Marion International agency.

Toilet Humor is owned by former entertainer Lala Aunor. Mel Dacome is supervisor for operations.

The Toilet Humor Girls join in the fun nightly, helping the talents entertain guests and provide dance numbers.

Nabus, a tri-media man, said the bar intends to maximize its state-of-the-art facilities by making the bar available for "more serious stuff" such as being the venue of corporate events like meetings, product launches and exclusive parties. A number of press conferences have also been lined up, according to Nabus.

Next month, Toilet Humor will conduct workshops for its talents and those who wish to get regular spots in the bar. Call 527-1148 or 0917-9010483.

SHOW TIME

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1	BLADE III	10:40, 1:05, 3:35, 6:05, 8:35, 11:00 R-13
2	OCEAN'S 12	11:55, 2:40, 5:25 8:10, 11:00 PG-13
3	KUNG FU HUSTLE	11:00, 1:25, 3:50 6:15, 8:40, 11:00 PG-13
4	RAISE YOUR VOICE	11:00, 1:20, 3:45 6:10, 8:35, 11:00 GP

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RAISE YOUR VOICE GP 12:50,3:10,5:30,7:50,10:10	OCEAN'S TWELVE PG13 11:40,2:10,4:40,7:10,9:40	BLADE 3: TRINITY R13 12:50,3:10,5:30,7:50,10:20
KUNG FU HUSTLE PG13 1:25,3:35,5:45,7:55,10:05	OCEAN'S TWELVE PG13 1:20,3:50,6:20,8:50	OCEAN'S TWELVE PG13 12:30,3:00,5:30,8:00,10:30

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BLADE : TRINITY
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KUNG FU HUSTLE
12:50 3:00 5:10 7:20 9:30

RAISE YOUR VOICE
12:10 2:50 5:30 8:10

ALI MALL CINEMAS

For inquiries, Pls. Call Ali Mall, Tel. 911-3101 ext 8281 / 8242

1	Dolby	OCEAN'S TWELVE	12:00 2:50 5:40 8:30
2	SDDS	BLADE: TRINITY	11:10 1:30 3:50 6:10 8:30
3	dts	KUNG FU HUSTLE	11:20 1:40 4:00 6:20 8:40
4	Dolby	SO HAPPY TOGETHER	11:30 1:50 4:10 6:30 8:50
5	Dolby	ENTENG KABISOTE	12:30 3:00 5:30 8:00

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3 Kung Fu Hustle	1 Panaghoy sa Suba	1 Enteng Kabisote
4 Blade 3	2 Kalabit	2 Panaghoy sa Suba
5 Oceans 12	3 Kung Fu Hustle	
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CINEMA 2	KUNG FU HUSTLE	10:45, 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00 PG13

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SHANG CINEPLEX

① OCEAN'S TWELVE
FS 11:30AM, 2:10PM, 4:50PM, 7:30PM, LMF 10:05PM (PG-13)

③ BLADE TRINITY
FS 12:00PM, 2:30PM, 5:00PM, 7:30PM, LMF 10:00PM (R-13)

② KUNG FU HUSTLE
FS 12:20PM, 2:45PM, 5:10PM, 7:35PM, LMF 10:00P (PG-13)

④ RAISE YOUR VOICE
FS 11:20AM, 2:00PM, 4:40PM, 7:20PM, LMF 10:00PM (GP)

PREMIERE THEATRE OCEAN'S TWELVE
FS 10:35AM, 1:15PM, 3:55PM, 6:35PM, LMF 9:15PM ((PG-13)
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• METRO MANILA CINEMAS •

GALLERIA 632-9115/16

1 OCEAN'S TWELVE • THX	1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00	6 OCEAN'S TWELVE	10:30 1:15 4:00 6:45 9:30
2 BLADE TRINITY	10:20 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00	7 PANAGHOY SA SUBA	11:40 2:15 4:50 7:25 10:00
3 IN SEARCH OF THE IMPOTENT MAN	1:00 3:15 5:30 7:45 10:00	8 FIRST DAUGHTER	12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00
4 NATIONAL TREASURE	11:00 1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00	9 SO...HAPPY TOGETHER	12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00
5 KUNG FU HUSTLE	10:20 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00	10 RAISE YOUR VOICE	11:20 2:00 4:40 7:20 10:00

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 BLADE TRINITY	10:10 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50		
2 RAISE YOUR VOICE	10:10 12.30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50	5 NATIONAL TREASURE	10:45 1:30 4:15 7:00 9:45
3 OCEAN'S TWELVE	10:10 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50	6 RESERVE	
4 IN SEARCH OF AN IMPOTENT MAN	10:30 12:45 3:00 5:15 7:30 9:45	7 KUNG FU HUSTLE	10:30 12:45 3:00 5:15 7:30 9:45

METRO EAST 682-8193/99 • 682-8280

1 RAISE YOUR VOICE	11:00 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00	5 TAXI	11:00 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00
2 NATIONAL TREASURE	11:00 1:30 4:00 6:30 9:00	6 OCEAN'S TWELVE	12:05 2:45 5:25 8:05
3 SO...HAPPY TOGETHER	12:05 2:15 4:25 6:40 9:00	7 KUNG FU HUSTLE	12:30 3:00 5:30 8:00 10:30
4 SIGAW	11:00 1:05 3:10 5:15 7:20 9:30	8 BLADE TRINITY	11.50 2.30 5:10 7:50 10:30

NOVALICHES 935-3229/31

1 OCEAN'S TWELVE	11:50 2:40 5:30 8:25	5 KUNG FU HUSTLE	11:00 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 8:55
2 NATIONAL TREASURE	10:40 1:00 3:30 6:00 8:30	6 BLADE TRINITY	10:20 12:50 3:20 5:50 8:25
3 SIGAW	11:10 1:30 3:50 6:10 8:30	7 ENTENG KABISOTE	12:45 3:15 5:45 8:25
4 TAXI	11:30 1:45 4:00 6:15 8:30	8 RESERVE	

From the makers of DUDA/DOUBT Grupong Sinehan Inc. comes another Crisaldo Pablo's digital movie about love and relationship.
Starring: Jet Alcantara, Andoy Ranay, Rey Pumaloy, John Lapus intoducing Ray An Dulay
JANUARY 19
MTRCB Rating: R-18 exclusively at Robinsons Movieworld GALLERIA

PIONEER 687-5378

1 OCEAN'S TWELVE	10:40 1:20 4:00 6:40 9:00	3 IN SEARCH OF AN IMPOTENT MAN	11:55 2:10 4:25 6:40 8:55
2 BLADE TRINITY	11:30 1:50 4:10 6:30 8:50	4 KUNG FU HUSTLE	11:30 1:50 4:10 6:30 8:50

Citisquare MALABON 288-0985 / 2575

1 SIGAW	11:10 1:30 3:50 6:10 8:30	3 ENTENG KABISOTE	10:50 1:15 3:40 6:05 8:30
2 MANO PO 3	11:10 1:30 3:50 6:10 8:30	4 SALAT SA LIGAYA	11:20 1:10 3:00 4:50 6:40 8:30

CAINTA 240-4661

1 OCEAN'S TWELVE	12:20 3:00 5:40 8:20	3 KUNG FU HUSTLE	10:55 1:25 3:55 6:25 8:55
2 ENTENG KABISOTE	11:00 1:20 3:40 6:00 8:20	4 BLADE TRINITY	12:50 3:30 6:10 8:50

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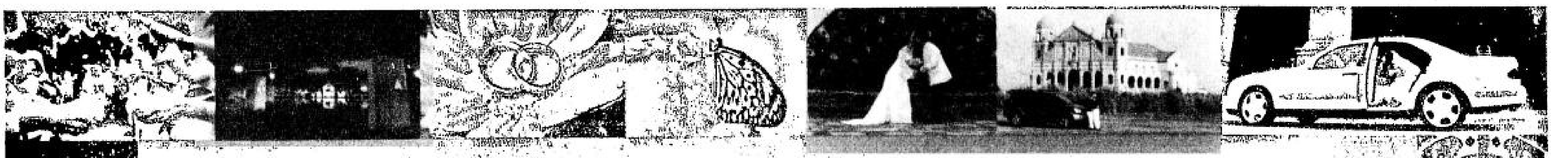

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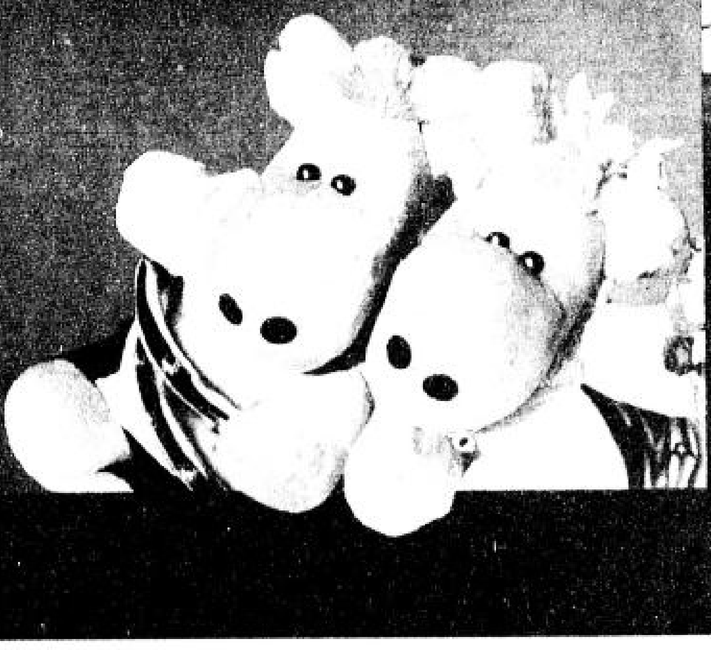

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SECURITY MANAGER

The successful candidate will be responsible for security of the plant including liaison with external parties, intelligence units and government agencies, investigation, supervision of buildings in-charge and security personnel, and other security functions. He should be a college graduate. Between 30 and 40, he must have more than 5 years relevant experience as a Security Manager in a labor-intensive medium to large-sized corporation. Candidates should have both business orientation and security management capability. The hired candidate will report directly to the Vice President, HR and General Affairs.

ENGINEERING GRADUATES BATCH 2004

- Mechanical, Electrical, Electronics and Communications, Chemical, Computer and Industrial Engineering graduates (with or without license).
- Should possess leadership qualities, are team-players and hardworking
- Must be willing to work on shifts
- Male or Female, not more than 23 years of age

ASSISTANTS

- Graduate of any business, communication, or psychology course
- Good interpersonal and communication skills
- Good analytical ability
- Pleasing personality
- Proficient in MS office applications
- Female, not more than 24 years of age

COMPANY NURSE

- Will be responsible for the curative, palliative, preventive, rehabilitative and administrative aspects of employees' health care
- Graduate of BS Nursing, licensed
- Must be service-oriented and willing to work on shifts
- Must be proficient in Windows applications
- Female, age limit is 27

OFFICE CLERKS

- Graduate of any 2-year computer or business course or undergraduate with 2 years in college
- Preferably with experience in performing clerical functions
- Must be proficient in Windows applications
- Female, not more than 22 years of age

TECHNICIANS

- Graduate of Electromechanical, Electrical or Electronics, Instrumentation Technology course
- Without experience or if with experience 6 months or less
- With knowledge in machine maintenance and troubleshooting
- Male, ages 18-24

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- ➢ Must be able to take short hand and good with numbers
- ➢ Familiar with spread sheet and must be computer literate

SUPERVISING ENGINEER (2)

- ➢ With considerable experience in site management
- ➢ With good experience in Auto Cadd 2002/2004

JOB DESCRIPTION:

a. To supervise the production of various decorative works
b. To supervise the implementation of scheduled works at site
c. To coordinate with various clients and/or site administrators concerning site issues and concerns

METAL WORKS ENGINEER (2)

- ➢ Knowledgeable in welding various metals, including stainless steel
- ➢ With considerable experience in electro-plating in gold, nickel and chrome
- ➢ With considerable experience in site management
- ➢ With good experience in Auto Cadd 2002/2004

JOB DESCRIPTION:

a. To supervise the production of various decorative metal works, including electro-plating
b. To supervise the implementation of scheduled works at site
c. To coordinate with various clients and/or site administrators concerning site issues and concerns

GLASS AND MIRROR ENGINEER (2)

- ➢ Knowledgeable in various decorative glass and mirror applications and production
- ➢ With considerable experience in site management
- ➢ With good experience in Auto Cadd 2002/2004

JOB DESCRIPTION:

a. To supervise the production of various decorative glass and mirrors, including electro-plating
b. To supervise the implementation of schedule works at site
c. To coordinate with various clients and/or site administrators concerning site issues and concerns

FOREMAN (2)

- ➢ Knowledgeable in the production of various decorative metal works including electro-plating. Able to act as General Foreman

JOB DESCRIPTION:

a. To supervise the production of various decorative metal works, including electro-plating

Please bring resumé, certificate of employment & training if any and other credentials to support application.

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- Will be responsible in providing analytical support in developing investment policies and guidelines e.g. asset allocation, active/passive mix and will compose regular market reviews and outlook pieces
- Will work with marketing and sales channels in providing fund/market information to support the sales and marketing effort
- Graduate of any 4 year business course; CFA Charterholder (or Level II candidate) is highly desirable
- 3 – 5 years experience in relevant investment analysis, fixed income research, portfolio management or investment consulting, equity research and/or trading would be an advantage

ACCOUNT ASSOCIATES (Kalookan & Makati)
- Will be responsible in assisting Account Officers in servicing of accounts and handling of the documentation of accounts
- Graduate of any 4 year business course
- Must possess good analytical skills; good communication skills; highly developed interpersonal skills and a high sense of responsibility

ACCOUNT OFFICER – Corporate Banking (Kalookan)
- Will be responsible in evaluating and recommending Credit facilities/loan proposals. Candidate will also market and manage borrowing clients' availments, collections and accommodations of credit facilities
- Minimum 3 years experience as Corporate Account Officer in any Commercial/Universal Bank

MARKETING ASSOCIATE
- Will be responsible in carrying out marketing and selling activities of the ROPOA properties and documentation of sale of acquired assets
- Graduate of any 4 year business course
- Must know how to drive
- Work experience in a similar field will be an advantage

ACCOUNT OFFICER – Acquired Assets (Vismin)
- Will be responsible in the marketing and selling of all industrial and agricultural ROPOA assets
- Graduate of any 4 year business course, preferably Marketing
- Must have experience in conducting market/feasibility studies

DEALER COORDINATOR
- Will be responsible in soliciting auto loan applications from various Car Dealers
- Graduate of any 4 year business course
- Experience in auto loans marketing/operations will be an advantage

AUTO LOAN SECTOR HEAD
- Will be responsible for managing and controlling all consumer banking operations in Auto Loans such as loan processing, lending guidelines and other loan activities according to bank policies and procedures taking into account loan target and quality portfolio
- Minimum 2 years experience as Auto Loan Head in any Commercial/Universal Bank

ATM CHANNEL ASSOCIATE
- Will be responsible in assisting the Channel Officer in strategic planning, brand management and promotions/events management
- Graduate of any 4 year business course
- At least 1 year work experience in product or brand management
- Experience in profit and loss project planning and implementation will be an advantage

PHONE BANKING CHANNEL OFFICER
- Will be responsible in designing marketing strategies; evaluating, studying and improving the Bank's Phone Banking distribution channel
- Graduate of any 4 year business course; preferably Marketing or Advertising
- At least 5 years experience in marketing in telecoms/information technology and service industries
- Knowledge in phone banking hardware and software will be an advantage

ANALYST/PROGRAMMER
- Will be responsible in translating system specifications into technical specifications & for writing program codes
- Graduate of BS Computer Science or any IT related course
- Banking experience will be an advantage

NETWORK ENGINEER
- Will be responsible for network administration, network optimization, planning, design, and evaluation. Will also handle the LAN/WAN administration, Internet/Intranet/remote access operations.
- Graduate of BS ECE or BS Computer Engineering
- At least three years experience in LAN/WAN internetworking/administration, network planning and performance management

BRANCH CUSTOMER SERVICE ASSOCIATE
- Will be responsible in client/account servicing in the branch
- Graduate of any 4 year business course

BRANCH SALES ASSOCIATE
- Will be responsible for handling and processing account opening, and other bank products
- Graduate of any 4 year business course
- Minimum 1 year bank experience in Branch Operations

BRANCH SALES OFFICER
- Will be responsible in account solicitation for the branch and assisting in the servicing and maintenance of existing account holders
- Graduate of any 4 year business course
- Minimum 2 years experience in a Sales/Marketing function in a bank or any financial institution

BRANCH SALES SPECIALISTS
- This is an entry position eventually leading to Sales Officership. Qualified candidates will undergo classroom and on the job training involving field sales calls, sales planning, prospecting, appointment getting and presentation. Candidates are expected to attain targets for number of sales calls, accounts opened and volume of funds generated.
- Graduate of any 4 year course with strong inclination and high aptitude for sales

BRANCH SERVICE HEAD
- Will be responsible for the over-all Branch Operations
- Graduate of any 4 year business course
- Minimum 2 years experience as Branch Operations Officer or have handled both Branch Cashier and Branch Accountant positions in any Commercial/Universal Bank

BRANCH RELATIONSHIP OFFICER
- Will be responsible in formulating plans and strategies to expand relationships within the bank's target market and for implementing of strategies for the branch target market in accordance with the Branch Sales Plan
- Minimum 2 year experience in a sales function gained from a bank or other financial institutions

Be a part of a company with Global Standards, currently being benchmarked in Service & Competence.

Interested parties are requested to send their comprehensive resumés to any of the addresses below with a 2x2 photo attached.

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Settlement and Credit Manager

Reports directly to the Finance Manager and is primarily responsible for contributing to corporate growth and profitability by providing leadership and management that is related to settlement and credit management.

The SCM end view is to effectively and efficiently carry out the settlement of daily transactions, manage utilization of credit as a tool to generate incremental sales, ensure timely collection of receivables, and provide Management with accurate, complete, and timely reports.

Other Key Performing tasks of the SCM include the safeguarding of company assets, effective execution of internal controls, maximizing utilization and administration of manpower and material resources under his jurisdiction.

Applicants should have:
- A Bachelor's degree in Accounting. CPA is a must. MBA units/degree an advantage.
- Male or Female, between 25-35 years old.
- At least three (3) years relevant experience in Credit and Collection on a managerial capacity, preferably from a multinational company. Exposure on beverage industry a definite advantage.
- Basic knowledge and exposure on Sales and Operations an advantage.
- Ability to handle and work with employees of different ranks; with good interpersonal and communication skills.
- Above average command of written and spoken English; good memo composition skills.
- Good computer skills with knowledge of MS Office Applications (Word, Excel, PowerPoint).
- Capable of working with minimum supervision and maintain composure under pressure.
- Willing to travel anywhere within Metro Manila and willing to work long hours.

Sales Office Manager(s)

Responsible for contributing to corporate growth and profitability by providing leadership and management that is related to sales office operations.

The SOM's end view is to effectively and efficiently provide services to the Sales force in terms of product availability and other required resources by ensuring the achievement of its sales objectives.

Other Key Performing tasks of the SOM include the safeguarding of company assets, effective execution of internal controls, maximizing utilization and administration of manpower and material resources under his jurisdiction.

Applicants should have:
- A Bachelor's degree from a Business course. CPA/Accounting grad an advantage.
- Basic knowledge/experience in Warehousing, Inventory, and Fleet Management.
- Ability to handle and work with employees of different ranks; with good interpersonal and communication skills.
- Above average command of written and spoken English; good memo composition skills.
- Good computer skills with knowledge of MS Office Applications (Word, Excel, PowerPoint).
- Capable of working with minimum supervision and maintain composure under pressure.
- Willing to be assigned anywhere within Metro Manila and willing to work long hours.

PD MANAGER

Preferably male
- Between 26 to 35 years old
- College graduate preferably in Engineering or any management related course -Must know how to drive -Can work long hours and willing to do field work -At least 5 years work experience in the field of Physical Distribution (Logistics, Warehouse, Fleet Operations) with 2years spent in supervisory/managerial capacity Competencies Required:
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CHIEF ACCOUNTANT
- Responsible for site Accounting activities in accordance with appropriate and approved accounting policies and procedures, and
- Ensuring the integrity of financial computer systems and records, and providing financial reporting and advice to a wide range of parties including site managers, corporate offices (Manila and Australia), and external organisations.
- A degree in Accounting or similar, together with superior computing skills are essential, whilst several years experience in mining, construction or manufacturing is preferred.

SAFETY SUPERINTENDENT
- Responsible for establishing and maintaining safety policies and procedures, establishing standards and controls to identify and eliminate safety & health hazards, and assisting in the development of appropriate training related to safe working procedures and accident and incident investigations.
- Experience as a Safety practitioner at a senior level in an industrial workplace is necessary along with high level communication and computer skills.

To be the successful applicant for any of these positions you will have a high level of personal integrity, be able to work in a remote location and in a team environment, have proper regard for Safety and Environment and be enthusiastic and dedicated. If that sounds like you and you want a prestigious position with an emerging mining company, please apply in writing before 31st January 2005, to:

The Commercial Manager - Rapu Rapu Project
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All Instructor Applicants please send resume. Other applicants interview will be on Jan. 18, Tuesday 1 - 3 pm. 5/F Doña Consolacion Bldg. 602 Gen. Santos Ave., Araneta Center, Cubao, Quezon City

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- Must have completed a degree in Accounting, Finance, or similar courses.
- Must have at least 2-3 years supervisory experience in a call center and/or guest relations in payroll and/or accounting.

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- Must have a college degree in any of the following fields: Human Resources, Psychology, or related fields.
- Must have at least 3 years of exposure in Compensation & Benefits/Employee Relations.

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4677 Arellano St., Palanan, Makati City
Tel. 551-8592 to 96
Fax: 551-8730

Last day of submission of application is on **February 10, 2005**

Fast growing children's garment exporter in Angono. Rizal is expanding and needs:

MERCHANDISERS - female, computer literate, w/ experience working in garment industry. Will be responsible for turning artwork into finish garment within schedule and budget.

ACCOUNTANT - female, computer literate, with experience. Will be responsible for payroll.

QUALITY CONTROLLERS - female, with experience in garment industry.

Interested applicants should call Medy at 451-0818

Mexicali

ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER

- Male or Female, energetic and with pleasing personality
- Graduate of HRM/HRA or any business related course
- Five or more years experience in restaurant operations with knowledge in food safety and quality control
- Strong organizational & interpersonal skills
- Good leadership qualities and excellent in communication skills
- Excellent command of English

Send resumé with 2x2 photo to:
Rm 3B JVR Bldg. 5782 Felipe St., (Bel-Air Vill)
Brgy. Poblacion, Makati City

The Best People Work for the Best Companies

Pfizer is looking for future business leaders.

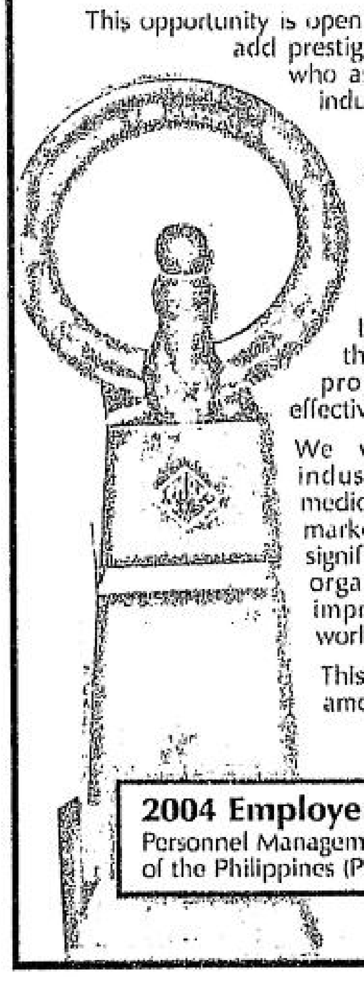
We are the World's No. 1 Pharmaceutical Company, America's Most Admired Pharmaceutical Company, PMAP's 2004 EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR and home to some of the best brands in the industry.

For more than 150 years, everyone at Pfizer has come to work with the knowledge that we're not just in business, we're in the business of saving lives. We have been serving the healthcare needs of people around the world through the life-saving medicines we provide and the various community programs we have put in place.

We are looking for

PROFESSIONAL HEALTHCARE REPRESENTATIVES (PHRs)

This opportunity is open to those who want to add prestige to their career, and who aspire to be the future industry leaders.



A big job, with big responsibilities.

To sustain our market leadership, Pfizer is launching a variety of breakthrough products that are envisioned to provide new ways of effectively treating diseases.

We want to build the industry's best corps of medical communicators and marketing people who can significantly contribute to the organization's thrust of improving lives of people world-wide.

This is your chance to work among the best!

2004 Employer of the Year
Personnel Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP)

Do you have what it takes?

We want achievers with the ambition and the determination to succeed. We want people with excellent work standards, a sense of urgency, and a strategic outlook – who can manage change and not be managed by it. We want leaders who can take charge without excluding others – who can recognize and respect people who have diverse ideas, perspectives, views and cultural orientation. We want people who can actively listen and communicate effectively – people who could turn customers into Pfizer advocates!

The rewards can be great.

As one of the Philippines' best employers, Pfizer offers a compensation package competitive with those of the leading players in the industry.

Our leadership and people practices create an inclusive environment where personal and professional development are top of mind. We have a career development program that provides a structure for employee growth. We offer many opportunities for both financial incentives and non-financial rewards and recognition.

If you think you have what it takes, this is your chance to prove it!

Apply today!

Qualified candidates may send their updated resume, transcript of records, 2x2 photo and photocopy of at least Non-Professional Driver's license to:

PFIZER, INC.
Human Resources Division
23/F Ayala Life-FGU Center,
Ayala Avenue, Makati City
Or apply on-line at
www.pfizer.com.ph

Rustan's

urgently needs...

BUSINESS PROCESS RE-ENGINEERING (BPR) ASSISTANT MANAGER

- Between 23 to 30 years old, Male
- Graduate of Management or Industrial Engineering and must have at least 2 to 3 years related experience in BPR, project & change management
- Must have knowledge of established BPR methodologies and techniques.
- Behavioral: Coaching, above average communication skills, great follow up skills, quality orientation and highly proficient in computer application is advantage

HUMAN RESOURCES ASSISTANT MANAGER FOR EXECUTIVE RECRUITMENT

- Between 23 to 30 years old, Female
- Graduate of Behavioral Science or Psychology and must have at least 2 to 3 years experience in recruitment and career management
- Must have above average selection and process management skills and must be able to analyze recruitment efforts and determine which plans are producing the best results

HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT ASSISTANT MANAGER

- Graduate of Behavioral Science, Management, Business Administration or Education
- Must have at least 2 year(s) of work exposure in training design, conduct and administration preferably in a marketing or retail environment
- Must be adept in Training Needs Analysis, Current Training Methods and Techniques
- Must be high on planning and organizing, counseling, facilitating and communication
- Must have the technical and professional knowledge of the job and should be customer focused.

ADMINISTRATIVE & WAREHOUSE MANAGER FOR VISUAL MERCHADISING

- Graduate of Business Management/ Business Administration or Industrial Engineering
- Must have at least 3 year(s) of work experience in the same field in a managerial capacity from Manufacturing or Retail Industries
- Must have a good management skills as to Planning, Organizing, Leading, Implementation and Evaluation
- Competent on the following areas: Systems & Implementation Monitoring, Budget Planning & Control and Warehousing/ Logistics Management

FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING MANAGER

- Certified Public Accountant (CPA) and must have knowledge in Financial Accounting, Financial Planning & Control, Reconciliation, Budgeting and other related functions in a managerial capacity
- Must have at least 3 years work experience from manufacturing or retail industries
- Must be willing to work long hours
- Highly proficient in computer applications

DATA INTEGRITY & INVENTORY CONTROL MANAGER

- Graduate of Accounting or Industrial Engineering
- Must have at least 2 years managerial experience from manufacturing or retail industries with background in Inventory Accounting in a computerized environment
- Highly proficient in computer applications and familiar with JDA, BIS, Platinum Systems.

TREASURY MANAGER (TM)
CREDIT AND COLLECTION MANAGER (CCM)

- Graduate of a business related course, preferably with MBA
- Computer literate and must have knowledge in risk management, corporate cash management, budget, and financial analysis
- For CCM – Must have at least 2 years managerial experience in credit management of complex accounts from manufacturing or retail industries
- FOR TM – Must have at least 4 years work experience in Treasury from manufacturing or retail industries

PROJECT ASSISTANT

- Between 25-35 years old
- Graduate of Civil Engineering, Interior Design or Architecture
- Must have knowledge and experience in Construction, Project Implementation and Coordination.
- Must be computer literate and analytical, have skills in Autocad and Basic project management
- Must have at least 2 years of working exposure in interior design, project management and building maintenance
- Must be willing to work in Mandaluyong City and do site visits as far as Alabang & Manila

MPC ANALYST

- Female, between 21-32 yrs. old
- Graduate of B.S. Mathematics or B.S. Accountancy
- Must have at least 1 year work experience
- Must have good communication and interpersonal skills and highly proficient in computer applications
- Preferably with above average analytical skills

CREDIT AND COLLECTION SUPERVISOR (CRMS)

- Female, between 21-28 yrs. old
- Graduate of a business related course
- Must have at least 2 yrs. Supervisory capacity in credit, evaluation and receivables collection
- Must be knowledgeable in risk management, corporate cash management, budget and financial analysis
- Must be interpersonally effective with customers and possesses analytical and administrative skills
- Must be computer literate and efficient

IS AUDIT ANALYST (ISAA)

- Female, between 21-28 yrs. old
- Graduate of BS Accountancy, BS Math, BS Computer
- At least 1 year experience in Computer Audit or IT work
- Must be hardworking, diligent, and with good moral character
- Must have good communication skills

Qualified applicants may send their comprehensive resume to:

RUSTAN COMMERCIAL CORPORATION
Human Resources & Organizational Development Division
G/F El Mercado Bldg. EDSA, Mandaluyong City
or Email to: [illegible]@rustans.com.ph

HANDS ON MANILA FOUNDATION, INC.

RESOURCE MOBILIZATION DIRECTOR
JOB DESCRIPTION

The Resource Mobilization Director of Hands On Manila will be in charge of all fundraising and resource generation functions as designed and planned by the Board's Fundraising Committee. Supervised by the Executive Director, the Resource Mobilization Director will be responsible for the implementation of fundraising activities including, but not limited to the following:

Corporate Partnerships

- Prepare corporate presentations
- Coordinate and present fundraising projects to corporations
- Liaise with and maintain corporate relationships
- Design corporate volunteer programs
- Assist in marketing holiday corporate give-aways for fundraising

Institutional Fundraising

- Develop and prepare grant proposals
- Identify and explore available grants from funding institutions
- Conceptualize and organize fundraising events
- Assist in the design, production and sales of HOM merchandise for fundraising

Qualifications:

1. Preferably with a BS in Marketing or Business Administration
2. Familiarity with developmental work
3. Experience in writing, preferably in preparing grant proposals
4. Must possess communication and presentation skills
5. Organizational skills necessary to address the corporate partners' requirements
6. Team worker
7. Flexible

Applicants must submit an application letter addressed to the Executive Director with a 2x2 photo and comprehensive resume on or before January 24, 2005. You may send applications via email to **handsonmal@edsamail.com.ph**, fax 843-7044 or send to LP 10 Medical Plaza Building, Amorsolo corner Dela Rosa Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City.

GLOBAL CITY
INNOVATIVE COLLEGE

is looking for dedicated, honest & professional people for:

1. NURSING FACULTY W/ M.A. in NURSING
2. MASTERS IN PUBLIC HEALTH (M.P.H.)
   MASTERS IN EDUCATION (Ma. Ed.)
3. CLINICAL INSTRUCTORS
4. GENERAL EDUCATION INSTRUCTORS W/ M.A.
5. COMPUTER INSTRUCTORS / TECHNICIANS EXPERIENCED IN LINUX
6. ACCOUNTING STAFF, PAYROLL ASSISTANT W/ AT LEAST 2 YRS. RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Attractive compensation awaits successful applicants!
Join the GCIC family. You won't regret it.

Please send resume with accompanying TOR, Diploma for undergraduates and Masteral Degree Holders, PRC License, 2x2 picture with yellow background, application to:

THE HRD DEPARTMENT
GLOBAL CITY INNOVATIVE COLLEGE
3rd Floor, Bonifacio Technology Center, 31st cor. 2nd Ave.,
Crescent Park West, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City
Tel. No. : 757-55-88/818-09-45 to 46
Website: www.gcic.ph Email: gcic@mydestiny.net
TXT 0918-9247810

World Class Call Center

Connect2

World Class Customer Care.

Connect2, Inc., a leading provider of customer care solutions, announces its opening for the following positions:

- Trainor (with call center experience)
- Customer Service Representatives

World Class Employees

Be part of a world-class company!

Submit your resumé with 2x2 picture to:

HR Department, 8th Floor Net One Center
26th St., cor. 3rd Ave. Crescent, Parkwest
Bonifacio Global City, Taguig, Metro Manila
Trunk line: 811-7400
recruitment@connect2inc.com
www.connect2inc.com

World Class Facilities

NURSES FOR NEW ZEALAND

Reliable Recruitment Corporation (POEA License No. 280LB-052802-R)
In cooperation with Arcee Nursing International Limited Accred. No. 73589.

Urgently needs 100 Registered Nurses to work in NEW ZEALAND. At least 2 years solid working experience in a Hospital.

- 12 months contract (renewable)
- Salary rate at par with current NZ nurses
- Irresistible benefits
- Deployment as soon as possible
- At least 6 months experience in any of the following: ICU, CCU, PICU, SCBU, NICU, OR, ED, MED/SURG. THEATRE.

***HOLDERS OF NEW ZEALAND, UNITED KINGDOM (UKCC), AUSTRALIAN OR IRELAND NURSING REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE WILL BE EMPLOYED IMMEDIATELY.

PASSERS OF IELTS (ACADEMIC) RESULT, SPEAKING & WRITING, 7.0 AND WITH OVERALL BAND OF 7.0 OR ABOVE IS AN ADVANTAGE***

Passers of CGFNS, TOEFL, TSE and TWE are exempted from IELTS,

For Professional and Personal Advancement, New Zealand is for you!!!

Please submit detailed resumé to:

RELIABLE RECRUITMENT CORPORATION
1166 Grey St., Ermita, Manila
Tel. No. 5222128 / 5261310 / 5251935
Fax No. 5216119
E-mail: relcor@skyinet.net

Interview conducted DAILY

MAG-INGAT SA ILLEGAL RECRUITER

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sportshouse

is in need of

BRANCH SUPERVISOR

- Male / Female, college graduate
- Willing to be assigned in any branch nationwide
- Responsible, trustworthy, can work with minimum supervision
- Must possess strong leadership skills
- At least one year experience in retail / sales operation

MARKETING ASSISTANT

- Male / Female, graduate of any four year course major in marketing
- Must possess creativity and a pleasing personality
- Has good communication and marketing skills

ACCOUNTING HEAD

- Female, Graduate of BS Accountancy or BSC Accounting Major
- Minimum of two years experience in general accounting
- Resourceful, highly motivated and can work with minimum supervision
- Proficient in computer

DRIVER

- Male
- Restriction Code 1-2-3
- Possess good moral character
- Not more than 35 years old

Please send your resumé with 2x2 pictures at:

Sportshouse Human Resource Department
Golden Tree Mansion # 74 Ignacio Santos
Diaz Avenue (formerly Banahaw St.)
Cubao, Quezon City
Tel. # 722-9883; 723-9125

NISSAN NORTH EDSA
BALINTAWAK

BE PART OF A WINNING TEAM!
2003 BEST DEALER IN SERVICE
2003 BEST IN CUSTOMER SATISFACTION
WE NEED:

SALES PROFESSIONALS
GROUP SALES SUPERVISOR

- Male or Female, 21-28 years old
- With dynamic character, strong & pleasing personality; College Graduate
- Chinese speaking is an advantage
- With good oral & written communication skills preferably with selling experience
- Must know how to drive

Qualified applicants will receive competitive salary plus unlimited commission

Apply in person with resumé & 2x2 photo, Mon.-Fri. at:

1174 EDSA, BALINTAWAK, Q.C.
Tel. # 330-5331 Look for Ms. Fema
email : femapadrones@yahoo.com

WANTED
MARKETING ASSISTANT

For our Duck Farm Company

We're a dynamic and aggressive group who values our teams' advancement both in career and personal development
We require a professional of the highest caliber who will share our corporate philosophy of exceeding our customers increasing expectations
Full time positions available with good compensation and benefits such as SSS, Pag-ibig, Medicare and Bonuses

The requirements of the candidate will be the following:

- Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's/College degree in Business studies/Administration/Management, Sales & Marketing, Mass Communications, Agriculture or equivalent.
- Required language(s): English, Filipino
- Female, not more than 25 years old
- Must have at least 1 year work experience in a marketing position
- Must be flexible, hardworking, aggressive and a team player
- With excellent interpersonal and communication skills
- Applicants must be willing to work in Makati City

Please send or bring your bio-data with 2"x2" ID picture to:

Michael J. Guillermo
MJG Holdings, Inc.
OKPhil Building, 1301 Estrada St. cor. Osmeña Highway
Manila, Philippines
Or send via e-mail to: mjg_holdings@yahoo.com

AAA Garments Services

ASST. OPERATIONS MANAGER

- Graduate of Marketing or any related business course
- At least 2 years extensive exposure in retail sales operations preferably in high fashion ladieswear.
- Possess good communication & interpersonal skills
- With strong leadership qualities & result-oriented

ACCOUNTANT

- Female, Accounting Graduate below 30 years old
- Experience in inventory and retail accounting from a manufacturing & retail industry is a must
- Computer literate, flexible, systematic, hardworking

INDUSTRIAL ENGINEER

- M/F not more than 35 years old
- Graduate of Industrial Engineering
- Must have at least 3 years work experience in a garment industry
- Experience in line balancing, productivity and efficiency is required
- Strong leadership qualities

MERCHANDISER

- Graduate of Fine Arts, Fashion Designing & Merchandising or Clothing Technology from reputable schools.
- At least 2-3 years of relevant experience in product development, planning, sourcing, inventory & product management acquired from women's apparel garment/retail industry
- Good leader & result-oriented

ENCODER

- Female, Graduate of Computer Science
- Above-average skills in data encoding
- Adept in different computer software & experience in computer programming is required
- Can work without supervisor, flexible, result-oriented and has attention to details

FASHION SALES CONSULTANTS (FSC)

- Female, Single 18 to 25 years old at least 5'3" in height
- Graduate of any 2nd course or college level
- Service-oriented, honest, smart, articulate and has a pleasing personality and passion for sales
- Willing to work long hours and under pressure

Bring your resumé w/ recent picture & school credentials at:

The HRD, #5 Saint Peter St.,
Brgy. Oranbo, Pasig City

WANTED
SALES CLERK

- Female, single below 30 years old
- Good moral character
- Engr/Commerce graduate
- Must be computer literate
- Intelligent, quick learner
- Knowledge of hdwe items an advantage

"Only qualified persons need apply"

Apply in the morning at:

19 Kanlaon St., Q.C.
Tel: 7325297, 7419087

multimedia exponents

a total below-the-line communications company

Be part of the Winning Team in integrated marketing communications!

A leading below-the-line communications company based in Makati is in need of the following:

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES
- Graduates of Marketing, Management, Mass Communication and other related courses
- With significant experience in account management and related fields
- Female, 22-28 yrs. old
- Graduates from UP, DLSU, ADMU, UA & P and UST
- With excellent communication skills
- With pleasing personality

ACCOUNTANTS
- Accounting graduates, preferably CPA
- 23 - 26 yrs. old
- With at least 2 yrs. work experience, preferably in the Finance or Accounting Department
- Residents of Makati and surrounding areas are highly preferred

RESEARCH ASSISTANTS
- Graduates of Statistics, Industrial Engineering and other related courses
- Male/Female, 21-30 yrs. old
- Preferably with at least 1 yr. experience in research, process mapping, and other related fields
- Preferably from UP, DLSU; those with scholastic awards are preferred

HR RECRUITMENT & TRAINING OFFICERS
- Graduates of Psychology, Human Resource Management, Behavioral Science and other related courses
- Male/Female, 22-28 yrs. old
- With experience in recruitment, placement and training
- With basic knowledge in SSS, PAG-IBIG and Philhealth applications
- Masters degree or units, a plus

EVENTS & PROMO COORDINATORS
- Graduates of Marketing, Mass Communication and other related courses
- Male/Female, 22 - 28 yrs. old
- With experience in event and promo management and production-related projects

COMPUTER PROGRAMMERS
- Graduates of Computer Science or Computer Programming
- Excellent scholastic records, those with scholastic awards are preferred
- With at least 2 yrs. work experience on the development of database applications using the following:
  - MS SQL
  - Visual Basic 6.0
  - Crystal Reports
  - Active Server Pages (ASP)

MEDICAL REPRESENTATIVES
- Graduates of medically allied courses / any four-year course
- Male/Female, 20-30 yrs. Old
- With excellent communication skills
- Willing to be assigned within Metro Manila or provincial areas

PROJECT SUPERVISORS
- Graduates of Marketing, Mass Communication, Communication Arts and other related courses
- Male/Female, 20-30 yrs. old
- Can handle pressure
- With supervisory experience in project, event and promo management

PROGRAM FACILITATORS
- Graduates of Communication-related courses
- Female, 20-28 yrs. old
- With pleasing personality
- Preferably with experience in conducting consumer education programs
- With excellent oral communication skills

PRODUCT CONSULTANTS
- Graduates of any four-year course
- With pleasing personality, fair-skinned
- Female, 20-30 yrs. old
- With excellent communication skills
- Preferably with background in medical sciences
- Willing to be deployed in different areas in Metro Manila

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS
- Graduates of Office Management and other related courses
- Female, 22-28 yrs. old
- With excellent clerical skills
- Proficient in different MS applications (MS Word, MS Excel, MS PowerPoint)

TELEMARKETERS
- Graduates of Communication-related courses
- Male/Female, 20-28 yrs. old
- With excellent communication skills
- Preferably with experience in linkages and customer contact services

MERCHANDISING SPECIALISTS
- At least college level
- Male, 20-30 yrs. old
- Physically fit
- Preferably with driver's license
- Flexible, with good communication skills

PRODUCT ENDORSERS
- At least high school graduate
- Female, 18-30 yrs. old
- Pleasing personality
- With excellent communication skills
- Willing to be deployed in different areas in Metro Manila

WAREHOUSEMAN
- At least high school graduate
- With experience of at least one (1) year in warehousing
- Male, 21-30 yrs. old
- Preferably with driving skills
- Flexible, willing to work on extended hours

MESSENGER
- At least college level
- With professional driver's license
- Familiar with the whole of Metro Manila
- Male. 22-30 yrs. old
- Flexible, willing to work on extended hours

Interested applicants may personally bring, fax or e-mail their resumes with 2x2 photos and other credentials to:

THE HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
108 Tordesillas cor. Gallardo Streets, Salcedo Village, Makati City
Tel No. 812-7108 Fax 753-3712
E-mail: recruitment@mme.ph

Rapu Rapu Processing Inc. is the operator of a gold/copper/silver/zinc ore processing facility currently under construction on the island of Rapu Rapu via Legaspi in Albay Province. The gold phase of the project is due for commissioning in May 2005 with the base metals phase in August 2005.

This exciting new project is seeking people experienced in all facets of ore processing. A number of positions are available.

Shift Supervisors - Ore Processing

These positions will be responsible for the operation of the processing plants on shift. Reporting to the Plant Production Superintendent they will be operating the plant to designated parameters and achieving target results while operating in a safe and environmentally sound manner.

Applicants should have experience in the operation of mineral processing circuits and equipment, supervisory experience and be used to working shift rosters.

Applicants with experience in crushing, milling, CIL and base metals flotation are particularly sought.

Process Operators - Ore Processing

These positions will be responsible for the operation of designated sections of the processing plants on shift. Reporting to the Shift Supervisors they will be operating their sections to designated parameters and achieving target results while operating in a safe and environmentally sound manner.

Applicants should have experience in the operation of mineral processing equipment and circuits with those with experience in crushing, milling, CIL and base metals flotation particularly sought.

Applications must be prepared to work in a team environment in a remote location, be enthusiastic and hard working and in good health, Applications should be addressed to:

The Manager – Metallurgy
Rapu-Rapu Processing, Inc.
Suite 21,Legaspi Suites
178 Salcedo St., Legaspi Village
Makati City 1229

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

F / M, grad of 4 yrs. bus. course, Excellent computer skills, good in business correspondence, Honest & Trustworthy, Systematic & Analytical. Can do task w/o much supervision.

Compensation is negotiable

knowledge in Fookien is an advantage.
We will accept applicants until Feb. 15, 2005

Submit Resume w/ 2x2 Photo (white background) & Transcript

BLUE ROCK AGGREGATES CORPORATION
Suite 608 King Center 57 Sgt. Rivera St., Q.C.
t: 330-2889 to 91 loc. 122/109 e: bluerock@versagroup.com.ph

URGENT!

We need the following:

- *Project Managers*
- *Marketing Managers*
- *Account Manager / Executives*
- *Sales / Marketing Personnel*
- *System Analysts*
- *System / Network Administrator*
- *Network Engineer*
- *Database Administrator*
- *Web Programmers (ASP, ASP.net, JAVA)*
- *Web Developers*
- *Art Director (With Graphic Studio or Agency experience)*
- *Graphic Designer*
- *Copy Writers*
- *Computer Engineering / Technician / Trainor*
- *Computer Secretary*
- *Accounting Personnel*
- *Telemarketing*
- *Receptionist*

Qualifications:

- *Degree in Information Technology or any computer studies, or any course relevant to the position applied for.*
- *Fulltime and can work overtime.*
- *3 years experience in related field.*
- *Masters degree is a plus for managerial position.*

1st IT CENTER
FIRST INTERACTIVE CENTER
1st Interactive Center, 7373 Bakawan Street, San Antonio Village Makati City, Philippines 1200

Join us and be part of our 2005 expansion.
We are in need of:

PORTRAIT ARTISTS (CHARCOAL)
- ✓ At least 1 year commercial portrait experience
- ✓ With excellent drawing technique and eye for detail

PEN & INK ARTISTS
- ✓ Familiar with "scribbling" technique
- ✓ Has experience drawing buildings and/or landscape using pen & ink

Please bring sample works & materials for talent test (board/paper, charcoal, brushes, etc.) on Jan. 22, 2005 (Sat.), 1 p.m. at Suite 809 West Tower, Tektite Bldg., Exchange Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig.
Tel. 4212976 Luis or e-mail artjobs75@yahoo.com to confirm your schedule and other inquiries

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Children are at the heart of everything we do

Plan International, Inc. (known as Plan), is an international humanitarian child-centred development organization without religious, political, or governmental affiliation. Plan seeks to achieve lasting improvements in the quality of life of deprived children in developing countries. The organization operates worldwide in 45 developing countries and has been in the Philippines since 1961.

We are currently looking for a highly competent and committed persons for the following senior positions:

SPONSORSHIP & GRANTS SUPPORT MANAGER (SGSM)

Job Function: To achieve the country goals in growth, customer satisfaction, grant and establish effective working link with National Organizations. To develop capacities among Plan staff, partners & communities in building relationship between people of different cultures.

Major Responsibilities:
- Facilitates the design of sponsorship and grants related sections of the Country Strategic Plan
- Manage partnership with various donors and partners
- Establish, implement and monitor accountability standards of effectiveness & efficiency to achieve sponsorship and grant related country goals
- Network with other Plan countries and with other organizations to incorporate best practices and learning into country operations
- Manage corporate sponsorship and grants transactions
- Manage and develop SGSM Unit staff
- Participates in the country management team

Qualifications and Requirements
- Degree in Management, Social Sciences, Development Studies with in-depth knowledge and experience in dealing with child poverty
- 5 year leadership experience in development work
- Strong experience in sponsorship and grants writing &reporting is preferable
- Proven track record in working in partnership
- Must be a Child's Rights advocate
- Excellent written and verbal communications to effectively deal with a widely diverse audience
- A team player who can work well in a multi cultural environment
- Proven ability to lead change efforts
- Skillful in Information System and Technology
- Willing to travel 60% of time

PROGRAM SUPPORT MANAGER (PSM)

Job Function: To develop capacities in program design, implementation and evaluation among Plan staff and program participants, and to support the achievement of country program goals that are aligned with Plan's Domains and Principles.

Major Responsibilities:
- Facilitates the design of program related sections of the Country Strategic Plan.
- Documents and disseminates Plan best practices from within Plan and from other organization to promote quality and learning
- Supports program unit staff in program design and implementation, ensuring technical support is provided
- Facilitates the establishment and implementation of standards of accountability, effectiveness and efficiency in achievement of Plan's Domains and Principles
- Manages and supports in country operations networks for learning and improvement
- Manages and develops program support unit staff
- Participates on the country management team

Qualifications and Requirements
- Advance degree in Economics, Management, Social Sciences, Development Studies with in-depth knowledge and experience in dealing with child poverty
- 7 years in managing integrated community development project
- Possess strong program development skills
- Must be a Child's Rights advocate
- Excellent written and verbal communications to effectively deal with a widely diverse audience
- A team player who can work well in a multi cultural environment
- Proven ability to lead change efforts
- Competence in supervising and managing staff
- Significant experience in Information Technology
- Willing to travel 60% of time

Women are encouraged to apply. Interested applicants are requested to submit to the address below letter of application with two references (not relatives), their address and contact numbers and comprehensive resume in hard copy not later than January 31, 2005. Only short listed applicants will be notified.

HR Manager
Plan Philippines
2nd Floor CJV Bldg., 108 Aguirre St., Legaspi Village, Makati City 1229

"Our policies and procedures always ensure that the welfare of children comes first"

ZTE Corporation is one of the leading telecommunication solution and products suppliers based on China specializing in providing customized network solutions to telecom carriers worldwide. ZTE's over 15,000 employees are working in more than 50 countries and regions in Asia, America, Africa and Europe. In coping with our expansion in local market, we have vacancies for following position:

3 Account Managers

Responsibilities
- Set up and maintain good long-term relationship and corporation with customers.
- Collect customer requirements and feedback on market information.
- Ensure establishment of the brand along with expanding telecom market.
- Coordinate with technical team and other colleagues to meet the company's targets.

Requirements
- Bachelor's Degree or above major in Telecommunications or related.
- Familiar with Telecommunication products and related technologies.
- Minimum of 3 years sales experience in famous telecommunication company.
- Able to work independently or with teamwork preferably with "CAN DO" attitude
- Preferably already established relationship network within the system suppliers and operators;
- Excellent verbal and written English.
- Computer literate in commonly used office software and internet

3 Technical Support Engineers

Responsibilities
- Technically educate and coach distributors, system-suppliers and end-users in relation to the company's products both during customer visits and in seminars arranged at a regular basis.
- Support the account manager with technical information in relation to performance, installation, operation and maintenance.
- Work together with the sales engineers and the manufacturing in order to provide the customer with full satisfaction all the way through the installation-, operation- and after-sales phases.
- Provide service, which meets, or even better exceeds customer's expectations.
- Collect and summarize Technical Information about the markets in the region.

Requirements:
- Bachelor's degree or above in Telecommunication and/ or RF- engineering.
- Extensive technical knowledge from Telecom systems. Should have the theoretical as well as practical knowledge about one or more of the following systems: transmission, Datacom, GSM-, CDMA and W-CDMA.
- Extensive experience from providing technical support to the telecom industries
- Good command of written and spoken English
- Ability to work independently and pro-actively
- Strong problem solving skills is an asset
- Good presentation skills
- Experience in an international firm is preferred

4 Maintenance Engineers

Responsibilities
- Responsible for monitoring hardware installation on site according to installation procedure
- Able to arrange technical service to customers.
- Debugging, Commissioning, Operating and Maintenances of wireless system and datacom products
- Perform troubleshooting and problem analyses in-house and on customer site with the target of solving the customer's problem in an efficient and professional way.
- Give support to distributors and end users in connection with product installation/troubleshooting/ operation and maintenance.
- Flexible to work in related given responsibilities.

Requirements
- Bachelor's Degree or above majoring Telecommunications or related field of studies.
- Minimum 1- 2 years working experience on telecommunication field.
- Excellent verbal and written English.
- Hand-on skills and knowledge of: Switching and Access Network, GSM, IN and SMS, IP, ATM and NGN, XDSL

Administrative Assistant / Secretary

Requirements
- Bachelor's degree or above in related field
- At least 5 years experience in administration work and secretarial job
- Computer literate in commonly used office software and internet.
- Good command of the written and spoken English and Mandarin is a must
- Experience in dealing with the Revenue Department, Social Security Funds, Customs Department, etc.
- Good human relations skills with service minded and pleasant personality required
- Able to work under pressure
- Experience in an international firm is preferred

Senior International Finance Manager

Responsibilities
- Project financing for international market, managing the account receivables, responsible for making project financing proposals for international market, working out payment terms and conditions, promoting sales in both domestic and international markets through financing;
- Involvement with international sales promotion activities, such as direct overseas investment, balancing and arranging of financing and trade terms.

Requirements
- Bachelor's degree from key universities majoring International Finance or related subjects;
- Familiar with international trade, international trade settlement and banking business such as capital financing.
- Two years or above working experience in the related areas, applicants with experience in structured trade finance and/or big project financing are preferred;
- Excellence verbal and written English.

Application must be submitted within 15 days from the date of this advertisement. Challenging work and perfect benefit policy will be offered. Please send your resume, a current photo, present & expected salary and relevant documents to us by mail or e-mail to the address below. Only short listed candidate will be notified.

ZTE Corporation Philippines
16F, Robinsons Summit Center, 6783 Ayala Avenue, Makati City, Manila, Philippines
Email: zhu.ying@zte.com.cn Tel : 2-8864581 Fax: 2-8442705
More detailed introduction in: www.zte.com.cn

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FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

Environmental Management Supervisor
- Licensed chemical engineer/ or other engineering graduates
- At least 3 years experience in a manufacturing plant
- Willing to travel to the regional plants
- Experience as PCO is an advantage but not required
- Knowledge of Safety and Environmental Systems preferred
- Applicants must be willing to work in Mamplasan Laguna.

Cost Accounting Analyst
- Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's/College Degree or Professional License (Passed Board/Bar/Professional License Exam) in Finance/Accountancy/Banking or equivalent.
- Required skill(s): computer literate
- At least 1-2 year(s) of working experience in a Manufacturing firm is required for this position.
- Applicants must be willing to work in Mamplasan Laguna.
- 1-2 year(s) experienced in Cost Accounting

Sales Coordinator
- Graduate of Any Business Course
- Computer Literate
- Preferably with printing technology traning
- With at leaset 1 year experience
- Highly flexible, patient and with good public relation

Copy Editor
- 5 years experience in editing or news reporting
- A love for the written word and an appetite for current events
- Above-average mastery of written English
- Can adapt to special editorial software
- College degree
- High initiative and an analytical mind
- Layout and visual design skills are a plus

Asst. HR Analyst
- Graduate of any Behavioral Science course
- With basic knowledge on Labor Laws
- At least 1 year experience in same capacity
- Can handle work pressure, analytical, creative, keen to details, resourceful and trustworthy

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Louie R. Prieto Press Building
Mascardo Street near corner Pasong Tamo, Makati City
Or Email: aoasan@fep.ph/ailumin@fep.ph

Retrogression-HCCA is working as part of a team with 25 immigration lawyers, industry lobbyists, former congressional staffers, current members of the US Congress, the American Hospital Association, local government officials, and 75 staffing companies and US healthcare providers in a focused effort to amend the current legislation on EB-3 visas. We believe the shortage of visas can be short lived. So let's get you started, **RIGHT NOW!**

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12 Telemetry & 9 CCU Nurses needed!
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If you are:
1. Not under contract with a POEA-licensed recruitment agency
2. Currently employed for at least six (6) months in a 150+ bed acute care hospital and working either in Medical/Surgical or Adult Critical Care Units
3. Fluent in English and driven to seize this opportunity

Then bring your:
1. Updated resume with cases handled, procedures performed & equipment operated
2. Valid PRC License, Passport & NBI Clearance (authentic-for US travel): Birth, Marriage, Board Certificates & Subject Rating; High School, College Diploma & Transcript of Records (photocopies)
3. Original current and previous Employment Certificates and/or Recommendation Letters
4. Exam Results (if any): CGFNS/NCLEX/TOEFL & TSE/ IELTS

And apply at:
The POEA Manpower Registry Division, Window I Ground Floor Left Wing, Blas F. Ople (formerly POEA) Building, EDSA cor. Ortigas Ave., Mandaluyong City (See Ms. Blenda, Project Officer, Government Placement Branch or Call 722-1174/75) or through your local POEA Office [POEA Application Forms may also be obtained at HCCA Philippines, 33/F Tower 1, The Enterprise Center, 6766 Ayala Ave. cor. Paseo de Roxas, Makati City, Telephone No. +63 (2) 757-1000]

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A reputable Property Development Company
is urgently in need of an

ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY

- Female, not more than 25 years old
- 2 to 3 years of work experience
- College graduate (any course)
- Computer literate
- Must be able to keep confidential matters
- Willing to work long hours
- With pleasing personality

Send your resumé, latest 2 x 2 colored picture and transcript of records to 7th Flr., CGB Bldg., 101 Aguirre St., Legaspi Village, Makati City or e-mail to roxaco@globelines.com.ph

*Only pre-qualified candidates will be called for interview.

TITANIA WINE CELLAR, INC.
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A Well-Established, Country's Largest Importer of Wines is looking for career-oriented individual for Manila, Cebu & Davao:

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- Female, with pleasing personality
- Good written & oral communication skills
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Interested applicants may send their resume with 2 x 2 color Photos, NBI Clearance, Transcript of Records to:

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We offer a good compensation package (including commissions) and travel opportunities to visit the wineries in California, France, Spain & Italy. Short listed applicants will be notified by phone for schedule of interview.

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AJRO MEDIA INTERNATIONAL, INC.
96-B Panay Ave., South Triangle, QC 1103
or email lala_hr@speed-mag.com
re: (position desired)
www.speed-mag.com • Tel.# 374-6773

REGENT TRAVEL CORPORATION is in need of applicants for the following positions for immediate employment:

TOURS MANAGER
- Male / female
- With extensive background in inbound / outbound tours operation of a travel agency
- At least 30 years old but not more than 40
- Excellent communication, planning skills
- Salary negotiable

TOURS ASSISTANT
- Male / female
- Between 23 to 30 years of age
- College graduate
- With travel related work experience
- Preferably with ticketing work experience
- Good oral and written communications skills
- Computer literate

RESERVATIONS & TICKETING OFFICER
- Male or female, not over 35 years old
- Work experience in reservations and ticketing for 2 years
- Preferably with background in marine traffic ticketing
- With demonstrated knowledge of Abacus and/or Amadeus CRS

Interested applicants may send their Resumé with recent 2x2 picture to:

REGENT TRAVEL CORPORATION
Regent Bldg., 1415 Gen. Luna Street
Ermita, Manila
Attn: The Personnel Officer
or
e-mail to regent@pldtdsl.net

SALES DIRECTOR

FOR RADIO AND TV BROADCASTING NETWORK

- 25 to 40 years of age
- A minimum of 5 years experience in Advertising Agency or other Network Sales experience
- Salary P75,000-P100,000 mo. Plus override commission

Please send resumé to:
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MAKATI CITY 1273

The exclusive Philipine distributor of an Integrated Business System from Canada requires candidates who will handle any or a combination of the following jobs:
- Marketing / sale of the system and the related services
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- System implementation consultancy for various clients
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Qualifications:
- Accounting graduates with knowledge of MS Access
- IT graduates with appreciation of accounting & finance
- Knowledge of Visual Basic & related experience a plus

Please send resumé to: The Managing Consultant, No. 692 CRM Avenue, Almanza, Las Piñas City
Email:majune74@yahoo.com/mjarizo@interact.com.ph

GHD | MANAGEMENT ENGINEERING ENVIRONMENT

ACCOUNTANTS

GHD is an international consultancy providing leadership in management, engineering and environmental services with a commitment to sustainable development. GHD is currently seeking Accountants for its Manila and other international offices.

Requirements:

- Working knowledge in F/S preparation, account analysis, maintenance of proper books of accounts and subsidiary records, payroll preparation and reporting to government agencies (SEC, BIR, SSS, HDMF and Philhealth)
- Familiarity with accounting system's control;
- Must have a degree in accounting, preferably CPA with minimum 4-7 years experience;
- Experience in audit and knowledge using Great Plains would be an advantage

The applicants must have strong leadership abilities, can work independently and have excellent oral and written English communication skills.

To join us, please log on to our website and submit your application letter and curriculum vitae online.

GHD, 2/F 111 Paseo de Roxas St., Legaspi Village, Makati City

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We will respond to shortlisted candidates only.

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Basic Qualifications:

- 26 to 35 years old
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- knowledge in contracts preparation, review and documentation.
- computer literate
- good scholastic records
- high degree of human and interpersonal relation

Good compensation awaits for the successful applicants

* All interested applicants may submit their resumé with school credentials and sample of pleading prepared to 315 CMI Bldg., Commonwealth Ave., Diliman, Quezon City or call (02) 951-1515 / 951-7267 / 951-2420 for details. Look for Rowyn – email: rowyn29@yahoo.com

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HUMAN RESOURCE PERSONNEL

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27 SAN MIGUEL AVENUE,
ORTIGAS BUSINESS DISTRICT, PASIG CITY
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FROM 10 TO 14 JANUARY 2005.
E-MAIL: alex@sytop.com

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If you think yo are trained – send your comprehensive resumé with 2x2 photo by January 20.

The National Office P.O. Box 196
Muntinlupa City 1799

VENZON MANUFACTURING CORPORATION
is in need of a full-time

DESIGNER

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Fine-Arts Graduate, or graduate of any related course
- With at least two (2) years experience in Designing wrought iron products (specializing in lighting fixtures and accessories)
- Has technical know-how on the following programs: MS Office, AutoCAD, Adobe Photoshop, Macromedia Freehand, 3D and other related programs, and Corel
- Willing to relocate and work long hours, when necessary

All interested applicants can send their comprehensive resumé and other credentials thru:

Mail : Address – Lot 138, Barangay Panipuan, City of San Fernando (P)
Fax : Fax Number – (045) 860.6846
Email : vmc@comclark.com

Attention to: Human Resources and Administrative Department

Henkel

Henkel is a world leader with brands and advanced technologies that operates in three strategic business areas – Home Care, Personal Care and Technologies.

The Henkel Technologies Group is one of the leading suppliers of adhesives, sealants and surface treatments for Industrial customers. It serves the automotive, electronics, aerospace, metal industries, assembly, maintenance and repair, consumer goods and packaging industries. Strong grands, such as Loctite, Teroson, P3, Hysol, Multicore and Liofol are key drivers behind its success.

More than 50,000 employees work for the Henkel Group worldwide. People in 125 countries around the world trust in brands and technologies from Henkel.

Position available:

The Technologies group of Henkel has an immediate opening for a

Sales Engineer

to support its growing business in the Packaging Industries.

The position involves developing and maintaining clients in the packaging industries. He will be responsible for the preparation of weekly status reports and updates to the Business Manager; visits to major accounts and conduct of seminars and trials required; the candidate is expected to provide innovative solutions for further improvement of customer process lines.

As a global player, Henkel offers a highly attractive, performance-based remuneration, excellent training and development opportunities and a substantial benefits package.

Qualifications:

- Male, licensed Chemical Engineer
- At least 1 year selling experience of adhesives or allied products
- Willing to accept provincial assignments
- Strong interpersonal communication and presentation skills
- Excellent proficiency in English, written and oral
- Knowledge in Powerpoint and Excel applications is a must
- Creative, teamplayer, detetrmined and highly organized.
- VAlid Driver's License

Applicants may submit their resumé with a recent 2x2 photo not later than January 21, 2005 to address below:

Human Resources Dept.
Henkel Philippines, Inc.
3/F Alabang Business Tower, 1216 Acacia Avenue, Madrigal Business Park, Alabang Muntinlupa City
Email: belcy.cruz@henkel.com

Architectural Firm needs

3D / CAD Renderer

Must be an Architecture graduate with extensive background in :

- Autocad ADT
- Photoshop CS
- 3D Viz ver. 4 / 3D Max ver. 6
- 3D Animation an advantage

Please send your resume to

1805C West Tower, PSE Centre
Exchange Road, Ortigas, Pasig City
Or fax at 638.5821

Qualified applicants will be scheduled for interview.
Walk-ins will not be entertained.

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There are at least 60,000 high-paying call center jobs available.	[✓ T]	F
With 60,000 job openings, getting hired is a sure thing.	T	[✓ F]
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You don't need to care about American culture and geography to land a call center job.	T	[✓ F]
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CALL CENTER ACADEMY

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Email: info@callcenteracademy.com.ph Tel. No.: 895-4298 Fax: 895-9944

ACCOUNTANTS

- Accounting graduate
- CPA is preferred
- Willing to work either in Quezon City or Malvar, Batangas

CIVIL ENGINEERS

- with one (1) year work experience

For interested applicants, please come for an interview on Jan. 10-21, 1 p.m. – 5 p.m. at CVG Centre, # 36 1st Avenue Cubao, Quezon City or call at 723-4922. Look for Mae Virtucio

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Are you up for the challenge?

Global Sources (Nasdaq: GSOL) creates and facilitates global trade between buyers and suppliers, by providing the right information, at the right time, in the right format. Our integrated sourcing and marketing solutions enable importers to buy, and exporters to sell, more effectively and profitably.

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You will write and edit corporate news and reports, and handle site development and maintenance projects for the company Intranet.

You must have a bachelor's degree in Journalism, Communication Arts or a related discipline, with at least two years experience in corporate communications or public relations. Proficiency in writing and editing news, feature and business reports and a sound knowledge of the Internet, HTML and MS Office applications are necessary qualifications. Excellent communication, interpersonal and leadership skills, a good eye for detail and an ability to read and write basic Chinese are an advantage.

A competitive remuneration package and a truly challenging, international, dynamic work environment await the right candidate. Interested parties should send their resume and contact details, along with two sample written works, no later than January 20, 2005, to any of the following:

Corporate Human Resources
Online: career.globalsources.com
Email: gshr@globalsources.com
Fax: (632) 892 4087
Post: P.O. Box 4597, MCPO, Makati City

global sources
www.globalsources.com

SALES MANAGER

We are a start up consumer goods company (food products). We are in need of a sales manager whose primary responsibility is to strengthen and expand the company's dealer network structure. He or she is between 25 to 40 years of age, at least three years experience in sales and/or marketing, possesses great drive and initiative and one who will share our vision of growth. Starting pay is 40K to 50K a month but there will be attractive performance incentives.

If you possess these qualifications, send us your biodata by email (kimmie1711@yahoo.com) or by fax no. 848.1179.

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Taguig and Quezon City Residents only

Accounting Clerk (Male)

- 21-25 years old
- BS Accountancy Graduate
- Preferably with experience
- Quezon City resident only

Dining / Kitchen Supervisor (Male or Female)

- At least 30 years old
- Graduate of Hotel & Restaurant Management
- Preferably w/ dinng or Kitchen supervisory experience
- Willing to work long hours and holidays
- Very keen on details

Male Kitchen Staff

- With kitchen experience
- College level
- Can work under pressure

Male / Female Dining Staff

- 1 year working experience
- College level
- With good interpersonal skills
- Can interact using English
- With pleasing personality

Cashier (Female)

- 2 years working experience
- With knowledge in POS system
- College graduate
- Honest & Hardworking

Kindly submit your resumé with a recent 2 x 2 picture & indicate your desired position.

Address to:
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Cubao, Q.C. 1135

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5. **Registered Nurse**
6. **Circulations Clerk**

Applicants should bring the following:

- Letter of application & resumé with picture
- Transcript of records & recommendation letter from previous employer
- Photocopy of Birth and Baptismal Cert./NBI Clearance

**** Only with those complete requirements will be scheduled for an interview***

For inquiries call **681-1718 – Grade School**
660-8105 – High School

Location: Rapu Rapu (via Legaspi City) is a poly-metallic mine which is currently under construction with metal production commencing mid 2005. Rapu Rapu offers first class facilities, excellent remuneration conditions and a roster that gives you good lifestyle balance.

Rapu Rapu Minerals Inc is seeking suitably qualified and experienced persons for the following site based positions;

SENIOR SURVEYOR

- Reporting initially to the Chief Surveyor, responsible for safely leading the Mine Survey team, consisting of two mine surveyors, several survey assistants and clerks. This position will work closely with the mining contractor requiring communication skills to be excellent.
- Possess experience and skills required to implement survey control for conventional open pit mining techniques. Main tasks include pit design set out, ore markups, toe/batter checks, grade control drilling pickup and set out, stockpile volumes, and end of month final excavated volume. Producing accurate plans as requested in a timely manner.
- Responsible for developing systems and procedures for all activities undertaken by the Survey Department., including supervision and training Survey personnel. A high regard for safety is essential.
- Be degree qualified, and have sound experience with mining software.

MINE SURVEYORS

- Reporting to the Senior Surveyor, responsible for undertaking the day to day survey tasks as required to operate the open pit mine.
- Experience in open pit mining although not necessary will be highly regarded. Main tasks include pit design set out, ore markups, toe/batter checks, grade control drilling pickup and set out, stockpile volumes, and end of month final excavated volume. Candidates must be physically fit and willing to work in a challenging environment.
- Must be team player and willing to learn as well as pass on knowledge to less experienced members of the team.
- Be degree qualified, and have had some exposure to mining software packages.

To be the successful applicant for any of these positions you will have a high level of personal integrity, be able to work in a remote location and in a team environment, have proper regard for Safety and Environment and be enthusiastic and dedicated. If that sounds like you and you want a prestigious position with an emerging mining company, please apply in writing before 31st January 2005, to:

The Commercial Manager - Rapu Rapu Project
Suite 21, Legaspi Suites
178 Salcedo St.,
Makati City, Philippines 1229

WANTED FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

ASST. SECRETARY

- Female, 25 to 30 years old
- 2 to 3 years of work experience
- College graduate (any course)
- Must be computer literate
- Must be able to keep confidential matters
- Willing to work overtime, if needed
- With pleasing personality

MERCHANDISER

- Female, 25 to 35 years old
- At least 3 years of work experience with handicraft exporters (knowledgeable in sourcing of items)
- College graduate (any course)
- Willing to work overtime, if needed
- With pleasing personality

Send your resumé, latest 2x2 colored picture to:

THE MANAGER
P.O. Box 3630
MAKATI CENTRAL POST OFFICE
MAKATI CITY

*Only pre-qualified candidates will be called for interview

Quality Control Engineer – ME or IE grad., (pref. resident of Caloocan City or nearby towns)

Maintenance Engineer – ME or EE grad.

Inventory / Purchasing Clerk – Acctg. or IE grad.

HRD Clerk – BS Psycho grad.

preferably residence of Antipolo City or nearby towns)

w/ at least 2 years experience in mftg. co. pref, in an automotive industry, w/ good scholastic record, oral & written communication skills, computer literate.

Please bring your resumé, transcript of record, diploma NBI / Police Clearance, birth cert., 2 x 2 ID & medical cert. at: B-4 Auto Seat cover Corp. No. 44 Circumferential Road Bgy. Dalig, Antipolo City

Tel. No. 696-0245 / 697-6402
email: b4corp@info.com.ph

RAF

RAF INT'L. FORWARDING (PHILS.), INC.

Is in need of the following :

ACCOUNT OFFICER / CUSTOMER SERVICE AGENT

- Female not more than 30 yrs. old
- College graduate or at least 2 years relevant experience
- Pleasing personality
- Good Moral character
- Good oral & written communication skills
- Preferably knowledgeable in freight business (for customer srvc. agent)

Interested applicants must apply in person with their comprehensive resumé and latest 2x2 picture at :

RAF House, Irasan St., San Dionisio, Parañaque City
Tel Nos.: 829-6175 / 820-7640 to 45

A member of GDA

RESPIRATORY THERAPIST

for hospital in Cavite

- male / female
- B.S.R.T. graduate
- Good Scholastic Record

APPLY: RESPICARE ENTERPRISES
Monday to Friday 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. / 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
Room 402 Rizalina II Annex Bldg.
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BRING: 2 x 2 picture, Orig. & Xerox of Transcript of Record, Diploma, NBI Clearance, Certificate of Good Moral Character, SSS & TIN

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McGraw-Hill Education (Asia), the global leader in professional publishing for business, government, industry and medical markets invites suitable candidates for the following position:

MARKETING EXECUTIVE

The above position will report to the General Manager. The successful candidate will be responsible for the marketing and promotion of higher education, school and medical titles.

REQUIREMENTS:

- Business or Business-related graduates with minimum 2 years sales/marketing experience
- Fluent in English with good oral and written skills
- Proficient in MS Office
- Has initiative and able to work under minimum supervision
- Aggressive and able to work under pressure
- Highly motivated, self starter and a team player
- Ability and flexibility required to work hours to suit operational requirements
- With valid driver's license

BENEFITS:

We offer an attractive remuneration and benefits package including training, overseas conference trips and opportunities to grow with the company.

All applicants will be treated in strictest confidence. Only shortlisted applicants will be notified. Please submit your resumè with recent 2 x 2 colored photo along with your salary history and expectation before January 24, 2005 to:

The General Manager
McGraw-Hill IEI (Phils.)
Unit 1503 Jollibee Plaza Condominium
Emerald Avenue corner Ruby Street
Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1600
E-mail: mghphils@mcgraw-hill.com.ph
Website: www.mcgraw-hill.com

Please do not hand-carry your application.
Walk-in applicants will not be entertained.

WANTED IMMEDIATELY

Expansion for 2005
Makati Office

You must be:

- A GRADUATE of at least a 4-year course from reputable schools and universities
- Energetic men and women, 21-30 years of age (hardworking, cheerful, aggressive, with pleasing personality and independent-minded)
- Must be fluent in both oral and written English and Filipino
- Not presently employed or studying

This is what we offer:

- An attractive above average compensation of P18,000.00
- Company - sponsored trips, local and abroad
- An opportunity to join the ranks of highly - paid managers
- Company - sponsored trainings

Visit us at:

PHIL. AXALIFE CENTRE
Suite 808, Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue
Cor. Tindalo St., Makati City
(Beside Makati Post Office)

Please come in your proper business attire and bring 2 passport size pictures, resumé, clipping of this ad, and 2 pcs. valid ID on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday (January 17-19, 2005) from 9AM to 12NN and 1PM to 3PM only.

INTRAC Construction Corporation

An Interior Construction company with multinational clients invites highly competent individuals for excellent career opportunities as:

- ■ PROJECT ENGINEERS (URGENT)
- ■ COST ESTIMATORS
  - BSCE Graduate, Licensed
  - 25-32 years old
  - With at least 3 years experience in upscale, quality GenCon and Interior Construction work
- ■ PROJECT DESIGNERS/RENDERERS/ ARCHITECTS (URGENT)
  - BS Architecture Graduate
  - With advanced/intermediate skills in Photoshop, 3D Max or Studio Viz, Power Point and Auto Cadd
  - At least two (2) years experience in project designing
- ■ ACCOUNTING & FINANCE MANAGER
  - Male/Female, 25-32 years old
  - At least 2 years experience in construction industry
  - Experience in preparation of Financial Reports, cash flow monitoring, handling bank transactions, budget allocation, coordination with external auditor and overhead analysis
- ■ ACCOUNTING CLERK/BOOKKEEPER
  - Male/Female, 24-26 years old
  - At least 2 years experience in construction industry
  - Experience in bookkeeping, financial reports, bank coordination
- ■ SALES EXECUTIVES
  - Male/Female, 26-32 years old
  - Smart, aggressive, persuasive and results-oriented
  - Good communication, presentation and computer skills
  - Graduate of Marketing or any related course
  - With experience in Sales & Marketing related to interior construction, furniture and fit-out

Please apply ASAP with comprehensive resumé and other credentials at 3F Carmel Suites, 15 Chronicle St. West Triangle, Quezon City on January 10 & 11, 2005 and January 17 & 18, 2005; Tel. Nos. 371-4674 • 373-4948 • 374-8858. Email: pdp_intrac@yahoo.com

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TELEVISION AND PRODUCTION EXPONENTS, INC.

is accepting applicants for the following positions:

- **SEGMENT PRODUCERS**
- **PRODUCTION ASSISTANTS**
- **CREATIVE WRITERS**
- **CAMERAMEN**

Qualifications:

- Graduate of Communication Arts or any related course
- With good scholastic record from U.P., Miriam College or any reputable school

Bring or send RESUME with picture and transcript of record at:

79 Xavierville Avenue, Xavierville Subdivision
Loyola Heights, Quezon City
Tel. 426-6423 to 28

Bayer CropScience
BioScience

BAYER

Our Marketing Group is in need of:

CROP SPECIALISTS
(Luzon and Mindanao)

All applicants should have the following qualifications:

Education and Experience:

- ✓ BS Agriculture Graduate (new graduates are welcome)
- ✓ Or Graduate of Agri-related or Non-Agriculture courses but with at least 3 years experience in Sales and/or Promotions in the Crop Protection industry

Skills:

- ✓ Basic Knowledge in Crop Protection
- ✓ Good Leadership Skills
- ✓ Good Planning and Organizing Skills
- ✓ Effective Presentation and Communication Skills
- ✓ Computer Literate

Other Qualifications:

- ✓ Male, willing to be based anywhere in the Philippines
- ✓ Can drive four-wheel vehicle, with Driver's license
- ✓ Should be willing to undergo one-month training/screening process (final employment status to be decided upon after training period)
- ✓ In good health

ONLY QUALIFIED APPLICANTS WILL BE CONSIDERED.
Qualified applicants may submit their comprehensive resumé with 2x2 photo not later than January 31, 2005 at the following address:

Bayer CropScience, Inc.
c/o Ms. Cris Malabanan
Human Resource Department
3rd Floor, Bayer House
Canlubang Industrial Estate
Calamba City, Laguna 4028

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HSPI
Hospitality Staff Phils., Inc

We are inviting hospitality professionals and staff seeking exciting opportunities in the hotel and restaurant industry in the Philippines and overseas to submit their credentials as soon as possible. Our company is scheduled to open some of the best properties in the world starting 2005.

EXECUTIVES – General Managers, Resident Managers, F & B Directors, Executive Chefs, Specialty Chefs, Rooms Division Directors, Marketing & Sales Directors, Human Resources Directors, Financial Controllers.

MANAGERS & SUPERVISORS – All departments

RANK & FILE STAFF – All departments

E-mail your resume as follows:
Executives – vicalcuaz@hspi.org
Managers & Supervisors – bav@hspi.org or dsa@hspi.org
Rank & File – omnibus@hspi.org

You may also mail or drop your resume at:

Hospitality Staff Phils, Inc.
30A 30th Floor Chatham House
116 Valero corner V.A. Rufino Sts.,
Salcedo Village, Makati City
Position Applied For:____________

Please visit our website at www.hspi.org and our complete job listings at www.jobstreet.com/ph/hspi.htm

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We are in need of

Certified Public Accountants

Qualifications:

- Young, not older than 35 years old
- Dynamic, analytical with a keen sense for detail
- Must have minimum 2 years work experience
- Can work under pressure
- Must be a resident of Pasig or nearby areas

Send resumé with Transcript of Records and photocopy of PRC license to:

P.O. Box #040
Pasig City

PSRC

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MOVE TO GREATER HEIGHTS WITH ONE OF THE COUNTRY'S LEADING RESEARCH ORGANIZATIONS!

A prestigious and leading research agency affiliated with the largest customized research organization in the world invites aggressive and self-motivated individual to fill the following post:

A. STATISTICAL SERVICES DIRECTOR

- Must possess a graduate degree in Statistics/Applied Statistics or graduate degree in a course with heavy emphasis on Statistics such as Operations Research or Econometrics.
- Experience with SAS programming is essential
- Knowledge of various bivariate and multivariate statistical techniques, including factor analysis, analysis of variance, multiple regression, logit, discriminant function analysis, cluster analysis, and conjoint analysis.
- Must be a good communicator and be able to write and present statistical findings about complex subject matter in general business terms.

B. RESEARCH ASSOCIATE

- Not more than 25 years old, graduate of Statistics, Business Economics, Marketing, Sociology, Anthropology, Communications Research or Economics with above-average scholastic standing.
- Familiar with or has basic knowledge of research (design, implementation, data processing, and analysis)
- Adept with data, analytical, excellent writing and oral communications skills.
- Knowledge of a provincial dialect (Cebuano, Kapampangan, Ilocano, etc.) is an advantage

The role of the above individuals will be varied and challenging; within a friendly team environment; and it also offers very good career prospects.

If you are interested, please send your CV with photo, academic credentials or transcript of records to:

Human Resources Department
PHILIPPINE SURVEY & RESEARCH CENTER, INC. – RESEARCH INTERNATIONAL
PSRC Building, Calbayog cor. Kanlaon Sts.
Highway Hills, Mandaluyong City

E-mail address: research@psrc-ri.com.ph

A young, dynamic and fast rising company in the fields of dermatology and cosmetic products is in need of competent, aggressive, energetic and self-motivated individuals to occupy the following positions:

SENIOR PRODUCT MANAGER

- ✓ Bachelor degree in Business Administration/Marketing/BS Biology
- ✓ With a minimum work experience of three (3) years in cosmetic field as Marketing Manager
- ✓ With an MBA degree an advantage

MARKETING ASSISTANT

- ✓ Graduate of Business/Marketing courses
- ✓ Graduated at the top of his/her class
- ✓ Excellent verbal and written communication skills

CLINICAL SUPPORT SPECIALIST

(Primary responsibility is to train MD's/doctors on the use of various medical devices/ equipments)

- ✓ Preferably a graduate of Nursing/BS Biology
- ✓ Female
- ✓ Work experience not necessary, fresh graduates are encouraged to apply
- ✓ Excellent verbal and written communication skills

Please send your resumé with 2x2 picture to the following address:

SPECTRUMED INC.
Unit 1504-East Tower, Phil. Stock Exchange Center,
Exchange Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City
OR send thru e-mail at: maife@hotmail.com

COME AND JOIN OUR COMPANY AND BE A PART OF OUR WINNING SALES TEAMS!!!

WE are in need of dedicated, smart, sincere and articulate **INDIVIDUALS** to be counted in our Sales Force:

MARKETING PROFESSIONALS

- Male or Female, graduate of any business course, behavioral sciences, or arts or any related course
- With excellent communications skills, articulate, good public relations, personable, carries self with confidence
- Preferably residents of Pasig, Cainta, Marikina, Cubao, Rizal, San Juan, Guadalupe, Pateros and vicinities around Mandaluyong

Interested Parties may drop their comprehensive resume to the address below or may come personally on Mon-Wed-Fri 10AM-4PM at:

HR Department
TOYOTA SHAW-ORTIGAS
124 E. Rodriguez Jr. Avenue Bo. Ugong, Pasig City
Please bring your comprehensive resume with 2X2 photo & transcript of records

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NOW HIRING:

Office Secretary

- Single / female with at least 2 years experience working as an office secretary in a company that handles nationwide operations.
- Proficient in English.
- Willing to work long hours.
- Computer literate (MS Word, MS Excel. Powerpoint and other Windows application).

Send your resumé to:
Unit 1501, 15th Floor, West Trade Center,
132 West Avenue, Quezon City
Tel. 374-7149 to 51 or you may send it
thru email to ystilo01@yahoo.com

WANTED ENGLISH TEACHERS

Are you experienced in Quality? Are you passionate about passing on your knowledge and experience to others? We are looking for the right people to successfully teach and motivate students to learn English.

Successful applicants will need to be well organized, flexible and have excellent management skills.

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For more information, please call

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Is in immediate need of top caliber individuals:

MERCHANDISING ASSISTANTS

- Female, between 23-29 years old
- Graduate of a four (4) year business related course or Fashion Merchandising
- With at least six (6) months work experience preferably in the same/related field
- Must have excellent oral and written communication skills
- Must be analytical and results-oriented
- Must have good fashion sense
- Must possess a pleasing and dynamic personality, impeccable integrity and good moral character
- Must be computer literate

HUMAN RESOURCE OFFICER

- Female; between 24-30 years old
- Graduate of Psychology, Behavioral Science or Human Resource Management
- With at least two (2) years related experience
- Must have excellent oral and written communication skills
- Must have strong leadership qualities, organizational and interpersonal skills
- Must possess a pleasing and dynamic personality and can deal well with all levels in the organization
- Must be people-oriented, analytical, and highly motivated
- Must be computer literate

BOUTIQUE MANAGERS/ SALES SUPERVISORS

- Between 25-35 years old; at least 5'2" in height
- Graduate of a four (4) year course
- Preferably with work experience in a fashion retail establishment
- Must possess a pleasing and aggressive personality
- Must be very good in customer relations
- Must be willing to work on weekends and holidays
- Must be proficient in both oral and written communications
- Must be computer literate

QUALIFIED APPLICANTS ARE REQUESTED TO E-MAIL OR SEND IMMEDIATELY THEIR COMPREHENSIVE RESUMÉ, TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDS AND A RECENT 2x2 PHOTO TO:

STORES SPECIALISTS, INC.
Human Resources Management Division
(C/o Executive Administration)
Ground Floor Midland Buendia Bldg.
403 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City
E-mail address: embaysa@rgoc.com.ph

(We will reply to qualified applicants only)

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Directories Philippines Corporation (DPC) is the leading and biggest publisher of telephone directories in the Philippines. It is the official publisher of telephone directories for **PLDT, Piltel, ACTS/Datelcom, PT&T, PLDT-Maratel, Cruztelco, General Telephone System Inc., Bayantel, Sotelco, Globelines, Digitel & Misortel** covering 35 directories. A Charter Member of the **Asian Directory Publishers Association, Inc. DPC** is the exclusive sales representative in the Philippines of the telephone directories of Telecom Directories Ltd. of **Hongkong**, Telekom Publications SDN BHD of **Malaysia**, PT Telekomunikasi Indonesia of **Indonesia**, Directel Macau of **Macau**, GTE Directories (B) SDN BHD of **Brunei**, Directories Lanka (PVT) Ltd. of **Sri Lanka**, GETIT Infomediary Ltd. of **India**, Sensis Pty Ltd of **Australia**, Etisalat Yellow Pages Al-Wahda of **United Arab Emirates**, Edward H. O'Brien (PNG) Ltd. of **Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands**, Fiji Directories Ltd of **FIJI**, NTT Directory Service Co. of **Japan**, Shanghai Telephone Directory Corporation of **China** and Korea Telephone Directory Co. Ltd. of **South Korea.**

DPC & its subsidiary immediately need quality candidates for the following positions:

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE-TELEMARKETING (AE-T)

- Female; 20-28 years old
- College degree holder with above-average scholastic records
- Personable, self-driven, dynamic and aggressive
- Excellent Oral and Written Communication skills
- Previous selling experience is an advantage

COLLECTION SPECIALIST

- Female; 20-30 years old
- College Degree holder with above-average scholastic records
- Proficient in MS Office Application
- Excellent Oral and Written communication skills
- Confident, Patient and can handle extreme pressure
- With Good Moral character

INTERNET MARKETER

- Male/Female; 20-30 years old
- Degree in Marketing or any IT related course with above-average scholastic records
- Proficient in Online/Internet Marketing
- Excellent Oral and Written communication skills
- Proficient in MS Office application, Internet Explorer and Net escape
- Has data management skills

PUBLISHING STAFF

- Male/Female; 20-27 years old
- Preferably single
- Degree in Computer Science or any IT related course
- Meticulous and Detailed in work
- Willing to render overtime

If you fit the above description, mail us your application letter, resumé, transcript of records and recent photograph to the address below or e-mail us at ***rfr_hr@dpc.ph.***

DPC pays above average compensation. For AE-T, in addition to basic salary, DPC provides allowances, commissions, incentives and other fringe benefits.

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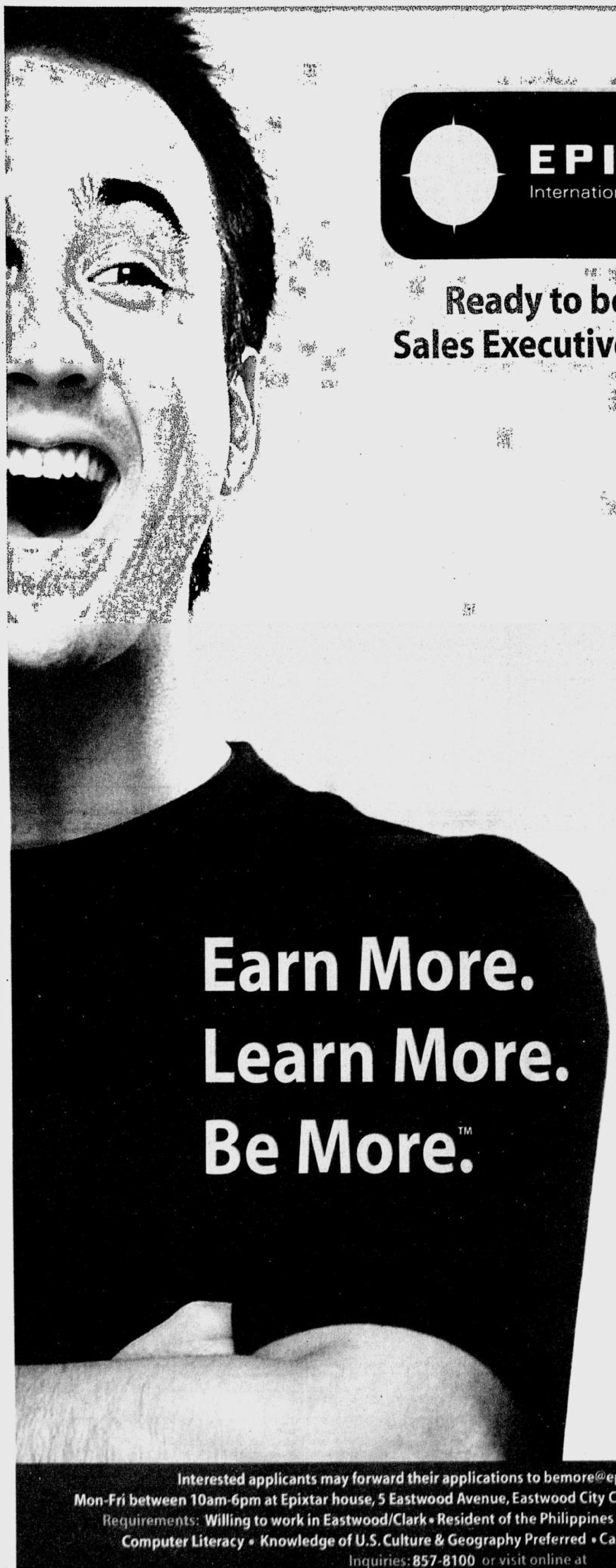
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Inquiries: 857-8100 or visit online at

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www.epixtar.com

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HOME AGAIN IN ILOILO

Welcome to ICT Group.

Building your future in ICT Iloilo - OUR 3RD SITE

OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

OPERATIONS MANAGERS
OPERATIONS SUPERVISORS
RESOLUTION SPECIALISTS
QUALITY ASSURANCE SUPERVISORS

- Experience in Managing and Supervising agents and in ensuring that all team deliverables and performance metrics are met FOR A TECHNICAL ACCOUNT

TECHNICAL SUPPORT REPRESENTATIVES

- Candidates must possess at least a Bachelor's/College Degree in any field preferably graduates of an Engineering Degree (EE, ECE, ME, ChE, CoE)/Computer Science or any other IT Related Course
- Graduates of any 2-year IT related courses are encourage to apply
- Excellent communication skills in conversational ENGLISH
- Applicants must be willing to work on shifting schedules
- Fresh Graduates/Entry-Level applicants are welcome to apply

In a global industry that has an estimated worth of $73 Billion, we see the challenge of offering more than just employment.

We see the opportunity to maximize the potential in every individual who joins our ranks.

With the growth of our workforce, we see progress. And every career that takes flight, we see the opportunity to change lives.

ICT Group.
Building the future.
One career at a time

SUPPORT FUNCTIONS

HR/ADMIN MANAGER
FINANCE SUPERVISOR
IT MANAGER
SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATORS

TRAINING MANAGER and TRAINERS

- Preferably with a Bachelor's degree in related field
- Minimum 3-5 YEARS experience in technical support and or training
- Preferably with industry standard certifications such as A+, MOS, MCP and MCSE

WORKFORCE PLANNERS

- Experience in scheduling assignments and monitoring shift changes
- Exceptional mathematical capabilities and MS Excel working knowledge
- University degree in Business, Computer Science, Management or Industrial Engineering or any other related courses

ICT GROUP

For TSR requirements:
We will be in AMIGO TERRACE HOTEL on January 27, 28, 29 to INTERVIEW qualified candidates. You may also submit your resume to recruitingmanila@ictgroup.com
Do not miss this opportunity.

For all other requirements:
Please submit your resume ASAP to recruitingmanila@ictgroup.com or
Visit our Recruitment Center
14TH Floor Union Bank Tower, Onyx corner Sapphire Road Ortigas Center, Pasig City
For more information please call us at (032) 857-8400 extension 7303

ISO-certified Multi-national Company engage in manufacturing various housing fixtures, committed to quality service and customer satisfaction. Awarded as Top Sectoral Export Performance Citation for Furniture Category are in need of the following personnel.

Assistant Supervisor

- ❖ Male/Female at least 21-30 years old
- ❖ Graduate of Architecture or any Engineering course
- ❖ With at least 6 months of supervisory work experience
- ❖ Knowledge in machine operation for wooden products
- ❖ Proficient in windows based programs
- ❖ Good inter-personal relationship
- ❖ Aggressive, analytical and assertive

Office Staff

- ❖ Female between 20-27 years old
- ❖ Graduate of four-year course Business or Computer Related Course
- ❖ Good Communication Skills both oral or written
- ❖ Can work under pressure without affecting the quality of work

Recruitment Staff

- ❖ Female between 21-27 years old
- ❖ Graduate of AB/BS Psychology or any related behavioral science course
- ❖ Can administer & interpret standardize & projective test
- ❖ Good Communication Skills both oral or written
- ❖ Can work under pressure without affecting the quality of work
- ❖ Can work on extended hours with minimal supervisions
- ❖ Can make Psychological report
- ❖ Must be computer proficient

Forklift Operator

(urgent hiring)

- ❖ At least Vocational Course Graduates
- ❖ Male between 20-35 years old
- ❖ With 6 months experience in forklift operation
- ❖ With knowledge in forklift repair and maintenance
- ❖ With Professional Driver's License
- ❖ Good moral character

Forklift Mechanic

(urgent hiring)

- ❖ Male between 20-35 years old
- ❖ Must be an Auto-Diesel Mechanic graduate
- ❖ With experience in motor pool is an advantage
- ❖ With Professional Driver's License
- ❖ Good moral character
- ❖ Fresh graduate are welcome to apply

Electricians (urgent hiring)

- ❖ At least High School Vocational College Level
- ❖ Male must be 21-35 years old
- ❖ With experience in Building Control Wiring
- ❖ Good Moral Character

ANGLO JAPANESE AMERICAN AJA REGISTRARS

SCAD Services(s) Pte., Ltd.

PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY
BLOCK 23 PHASE 1V ROSARIO, CAVITE

You can mail or hand carry your comprehensive resumé with 2x2 picture and transcript of records at the above address.

For inquiries, call telephone no. (046) 437-0849 to 51. Look for Ms. Keizelle R. Guillema or Ms. Ronalyn M. Estorninos or you can e-mail your resumé at hrd_scad@pacific.net.ph

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GLOBALSTRIDE is a premier outsourced customer service solutions provider. We provide the best in class CRM solutions to global companies at a lower cost through our offshore customer contact centers. Through a series of operational and technology partnerships with leading companies worldwide, GLOBALSTRIDE is uniquely positioned to handle customer service needs for a full range of contact channels, technologies, and languages.

CUSTOMER CARE SPECIALISTS

Job Responsibilities:

- Offer product & services through the telephone & other specified means of communication to a target list of customers in behalf of the product/services being offered.
- Provide necessary information about the product & services.
- Document all pertinent customer data using client prescribed forms.
- Meet the productivity requirements of clients on qualified calls.

Job Requirements:

- Bachelor's degree holders of any 4-year course with excellent interpersonal and communication skills particularly using American grammar, diction, intonation, inflection, intonation and articulation.
- Previous experience in customer relation, management, sales or marketing is an advantage.
- Experienced agents (Part-time/Full-time) with at least 1-year strong sales background calling for American, Australian and/or British accounts.

TEAM LEADERS

Job Responsibilities:

- Manage and motivate a team of Customer Care Specialists.
- Develop strategies to ensure the Team desired targets.
- Conduct coaching activities to address Customer Care Specialists' improvements to improve performance and ensure that all agents are updated to company rules and the Program

Job Requirements:

- Bachelor's degree holders of any 4-year course with excellent interpersonal and proficiency in the English language
- Must have at least 6 months hands-on experience as Team Leaders managing hard sales accounts calling for American, Australian and/ or British accounts.
- Track record as an agent calling for hard sales accounts is a definite advantage.

INTERNAL AUDITOR

Job Responsibilities:

- Reports directly to the Chairman of the Board regarding operational audit and independent review of controls and procedures and prepare audit plans, programs and comprehensive audit report
- Recommends and documents Policy changes and provide analysis and recommendations to audit reviews
- Provides assistance to ensure efficiency in accounting, administrative and operational controls to maintain quality standard financial information to shareholders

Job Requirements:

- Must have at least 3 years working foundation in leading audit firms or 3 years extensive Internal Audit experience
- Must have excellent analytical ability, good interpersonal skills and exceptional verbal and written communication
- Must be CPA graduates of UP/DLSU/UE and other leading universities; MBA and/or CFA gains an advantage
- Working experience in the same capacity in a call center is a plus

CREDIT AND COLLECTION OFFICER

Job Responsibilities:

- Maintains Accounts Receivable, general and subsidiary records
- Prepares aging and other analyses for management
- Establishes and maintain credit evaluation system
- Ensures adherence to credit and collection policies
- Prepares and transmit Statement of Accounts to clients and coordinate with internal Client Services for follow-up

Job Requirements:

- Accounting or Business Graduate
- At least 5 years experience, last 2 in supervisory capacity, in credit and collection, internal or external audit
- Expected to be detail-oriented and pro-active with above average communication skills (written and oral)
- Experience in both manual and automated financial systems is a plus

FINANCIAL ANALYST

Job Responsibilities:

- Works under the direction of the CFO and/or CEO in preparing regular financial reports and projects required by senior management, Executive Committee and the Board Directors
- Assists the CFO and ExCom in maintaining an up-to-date and complete governance documents
- Coordinates ExCom and Board meetings; Liaises with key representatives of current and prospective investor groups as well as manage requests for information from all external parties

Job Requirements:

- Must have at least 3 years working foundation as either a Financial Analyst, Bank Lending Officer / Investment Banking Associate, Corporate Governance Professional or Auditor (Internal or External)
- Must be Business graduates with substantial work experience or a CPA with similar working capacity

NETWORK ENGINEERS

Job Responsibilities:

- Manage and maintain infrastructure and network connectivity, IP subnetting across LAN and WAN and network infrastructure documentation
- Ensure network security using PIX Firewall as well as connectivity of LAN and WAN
- Install and configures CISCO routers and Catalysis switches

Job Requirements:

- Must have at least 2 years working knowledge in managing and troubleshooting CISCO routers and Catalysts switches, LAN and WAN infrastructure and CISCO PIX Firewall management
- Must have strong background in TCP/IP and understanding of OSPF and BGP routing protocol
- Willing to be a 24 x 7 on-call support personnel; CCNA certified gains advantage

TELEPHONY ENGINEERS

Job Responsibilities:

- Manage and maintain voice gateways across organization and ensure cost-effective & reliable voice connection
- Manage the predictive dialer and implement necessary QoS to ensure voice quality
- Perform capacity planning on PSTN trunk and WAN bandwidth utilization and ensure standardized structured cabling across organization as well as liaise with Carrier
- Willing to be a 24 x 7 on-call support personnel

Job Requirements:

- Must have substantial working knowledge in CISCO voice gateways, Avaya PBX Administration and CISCO Call Manager 3.3 platform and CISCO IOS
- Must have strong understanding of H.323 protocol and E1 / E2 and ISDN signaling
- Working knowledge in Stratasoft IP dialer and CISCO IP dialer and CIPT certified gains advantage

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VISAYAN FORUM FOUNDATION, INC.

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

The *Visayan Forum Foundation, Inc.*, a Manila-based non-government organization (with regional offices in Batangas, Bacolod, Davao and Matnog), that works for the protection and development of marginalized migrants especially domestic workers, trafficked women and children is urgently in need of the following:

(1) REGIONAL COORDINATOR (Davao)

Qualifications:

- ■ College graduate
- ■ Has at least 5 years experience in NGO developmental work, specializing in children/s rights, child labor or women's welfare
- ■ Has held a supervisorial/managerial position in the past jobs
- ■ Has the ability to lead and work with a team
- ■ Good in oral and written communications
- ■ Good in project reporting and proposal writing
- ■ Computer literate
- ■ Good interpersonal relations, especially with children

(2) LICENSED SOCIAL WORKERS (Davao)

Qualifications:

- ■ Graduate of social work
- ■ Experience in NGO developmental work, specializing in children's rights, child labor or women's welfare is an advantage
- ■ Extensive experience in case management and handling of children in distress
- ■ Has the ability to work with a team
- ■ Good in oral and written communications
- ■ Computer literate
- ■ Good interpersonal relations, especially with children
- ■ Willing to work stay-in

(1) PUBLICATIONS OFFICER (to be based in Manila)

Qualifications:

- ■ Bachelor degree, preferably in Mass Communications, Creative Writing or other Social Sciences courses
- ■ With initial experience in managing publications such as newsletters, periodicals, journals, etc.
- ■ Preferably with extensive experiences in developmental work, especially with children's and women issues
- ■ Must be computer literate and proficient in Pagemaker or other layouting softwares
- ■ Website design skill is an advantage
- ■ International networking and advocacy background will be highly preferred
- ■ Able to meet deadlines and willing to travel in regional in regional project areas
- ■ Team-worker and can perform multiple tasks with minimum supervision
- ■ Sensitive to the best interest of exploited women and children

Interested applicants may apply personally and bring with them their application letter, together with comprehensive resumé and other credentials. They may also fax, mail, or e-mail their application directly to the:

The Executive Order
Visayan Forum Foundation, Inc.
#2873 Lamayan Street, Sta. Ana, Manila
Tel. Nos.: (02) 562-7821; 562-7810
Telefax: (02) 563-4514
E-mails: admin@visayanforum.org
visforum@pldtdsl.net

Note: Only qualified applicants would be notified. Deadline of submission of application is on or before January 22, 2005.

WANTED

SHORT ORDER/FAST FOOD/COFFEE SHOP COOK

- 30 above
- FEMALE/SINGLE
  (Preferably has experience in Rest., Hotels or Resorts)
- Knows how to cook variety of foods

The best bio-data input paper automatically gets the job. We will check you.

Bio-data, 2x2 ID pic., Employment records, NBI & Health Clearance Willing to stay-in

Mail to: P.O. Box 2720 MCC Makati, M.M. Phils. 1267

CRISDY-NA

CRISDY-NA DRUG CORPORATION, an importer / distributor of High Quality Pharmaceutical Products from Australia and Japan in its expansion for 2005 will be needing the following personnel:

MEDICAL SALES REPRESENTATIVES

Qualifications:

- Male or Female, 21-25 years old, single
- At least 5'2" in height
- Graduate of any four-year course (preferably science courses)
- With pleasing personality, and of good moral character
- Excellent oral and written communication skills
- Results-oriented, dedicated, hardworking, and a Teamplayer
- Willing to accept provincial assignment
- With driving skills

Successful participants will enjoy:

- Competitive Compensation Package
- Attractive Car Plan
- Excellent Sales Incentive Program

CLINICIAN/PROMO REPRESENTATIVE

- Male or female, 21-25 years old, single
- At least 5'2 in height
- At least 2nd year college or graduate of any four-year course (preferably science courses)
- With pleasing personality
- Honest, loyal and hardworking person
- Can work with minimum supervision

MARKETING ASSISTANT

- Male or Female, single, not more than 25 years old
- Graduate of any four-year course (preferably Marketing or any business course)
- 1-2 years experience in the same capacity
- Can develop & implement strategic plan
- Hardworking, assertive and can work with minimum supervision
- Preferably with driving skills

Qualified applicants are requested to apply in person at 5/F G-Seven Sons Co., Bldg., 646 Muelle de Binondo, Pereira St., Binondo, Manila, Tel. No. 243-2393 from January 17-21, 2005 (9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.) please bring the following requirements: Resumé, latest 2x2 picture and Transcript of Record.

Previous applicants need not apply

Operations / Warehouse Supervisor

- – Male / female, 30-35 years old
- – Must have at least 3 yrs. experience in Warehouse / Operations work
- – Must have at least 3 yrs. experience in handling personnel

Administrative Assistants

- – Female/Male 25-33 years old
- – Result-oriented, dedicated, organized
- – Have at least 3 yrs. experience in administrative duties
- – Good in oral and written English & Tagalog

Sales Secretaries

- – Female, 24-30 years old
- – Aggressive, articulate and has initiative
- – Has at least 3 years in sales experience

Office Secretary

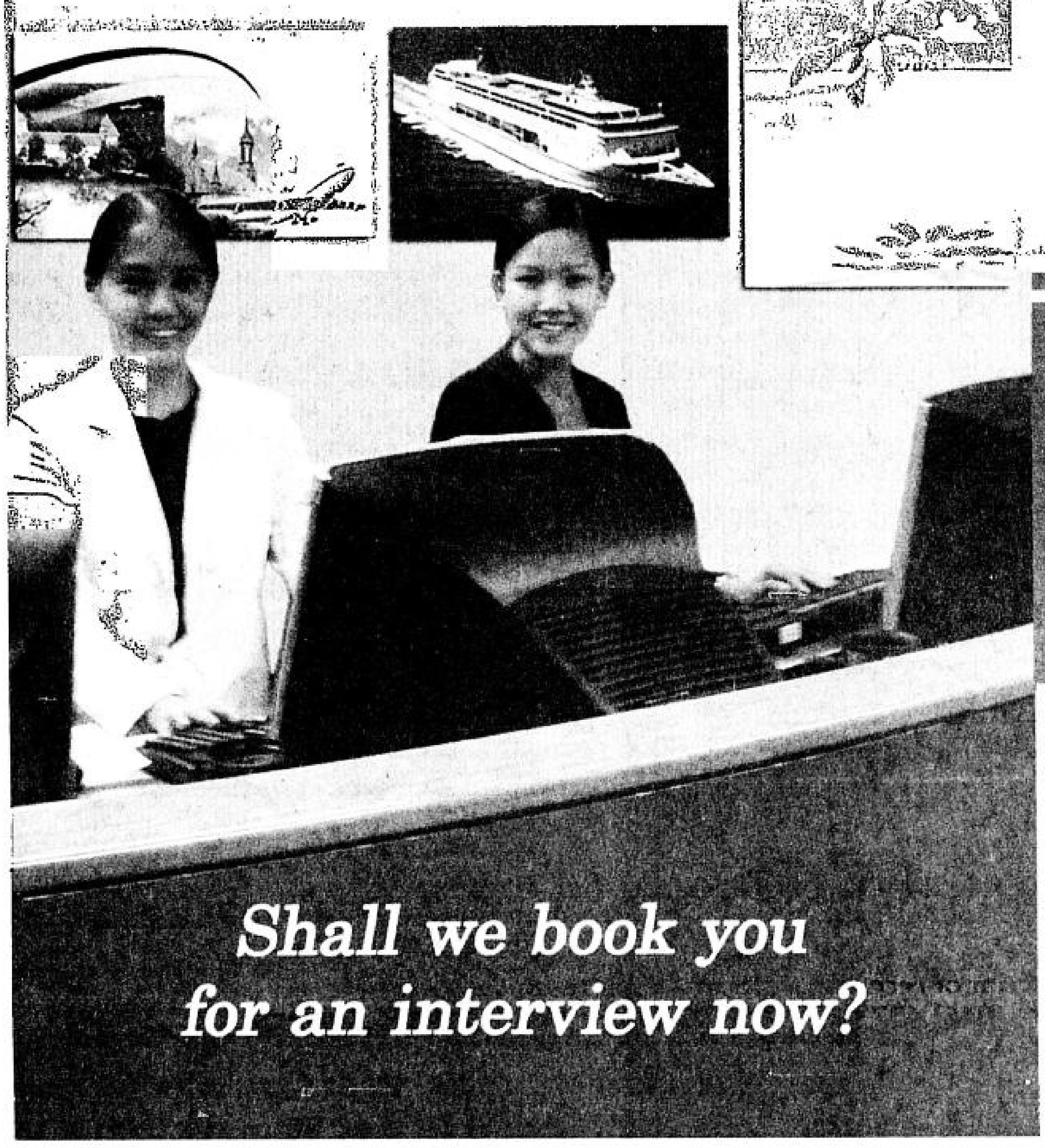
- – Female, not over 35 yrs old
- – Computer literate / proficient in typing
- – 2-3 yrs experience in all aspects of secretarial job.
- – very good oral & written communication skills

MAIL OR SUBMIT RESUMÉ BEFORE JAN. 23 TO:
2840 ZAMORA ST., PASAY CITY

(Include pictures, details of work experience, transcript of grades, contact number pref. landline and other supporting papers)

PEOPLESUPPORT®

First class seats reserved for TRAVEL PROFESSIONALS with GDS experience.



Shall we book you for an interview now?

PEOPLESUPPORT is a leading provider of offshore business process outsourcing (BPO) delivering multi-channel customer management and back office solutions for notable, Fortune 1000 U.S.-based clients.

Managing more than one million customer communications per month, PeopleSupport is one of the largest outsourced service providers in the Philippines with over 3,500 college-educated professionals spread out among four world-class facilities in Manila and Cebu. With headquarters in Los Angeles, California, PeopleSupport supports clients in a variety of industries, including travel and hospitality, technology, telecommunications, retail, consumer products and financial services.

PeopleSupport offers outstanding benefits, competitive salary, career advancement, great culture and fun working environment to people who are handpicked to join the team.

POSITIONS AVAILABLE IN TRAVEL ACCOUNTS

Operations Manager

Team Supervisor

Travel Trainer

Travel eReps

Visit **www.peoplesupport.com** for more details.
Email your resume to **manilajobs@peoplesupport.com**.

APPLY NOW!

Manila
Visit for immediate interview
32F Robinsons Summit Center,
6783 Ayala Ave., Makati City
Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Call the HR Hotline at
(02) 755-2600
E-mail your resumé to
manilajobs@peoplesupport.com

Cebu
Visit for immediate interview
e-Office 1, AsiaTown I.T. Park,
Apas, Lahug, Cebu City
Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Call our Cebu HR Hotline at
(032) 234-8222
E-mail your resumé to
cebu@peoplesupport.com

Or visit us online at **www.peoplesupport.com.**

MEGA DATA CORPORATION

A pioneer in Systems Integration & Development in the Philippines
URGENTLY NEEDS

(15) Programmer Trainees
- Graduate of any 4-yr Computer, Engineering or Math-related course
- Male, Female , Single not more than 30 yrs. old
- Knowledge in C/C++ Programming an advantage

(10) Systems Support Engineer Trainees
- BSCoE, BSEE OR BSECE graduates
- Male, Single, not more than 30 yrs old
- Knowledge in Basic PC troubleshooting & Networking preferred. Willing to travel

(2) Systems Analysts
- BSCS, BSCoE, BSEE, BSECE or any 4-yr Computer or Math-related field graduates
- Male, Female, Single, not more than 30 yrs old
- At least 1 year work experience as a Systems or Business Process Analyst

(15) PC Engineer Trainees
- Associate Degree in Engineering or Computer Science or any Computer-related Technical/ Vocational Course
- Male, Single, not more than 30 yrs old
- Knowledge in Basic PC troubleshooting & Networking preferred. Willing to travel

(1) Accounting Clerk/Bookkeeper
- Male, Female, Single, not more than 30 yrs old
- BS Accounting Graduate or any related course

(2) Secretaries
- Female, Single, not more than 27 years old
- Fluent in both Oral and Written English
- Knowledge in MS-Office & other Windows-based office applications
- With pleasing personality

(100) Data Encoders
- Can type 40-50 wpm or 8000-10000 cps
- Male, Female, Single, not more than 35 yrs old
- Experience an advantage

Submit Resume, 2x2 Color Photo, Transcript of Records, SSS, TIN, and NBI Clearance to

Personnel Department
MEGA-RMG3 Bldg., 667 Sgt. Bumatay St.,
Mandaluyong City

DIGITEL

Currently, our company is in need of **CORPORATE ACCOUNT MANAGERS** who will be responsible for acquisition of new accounts, maintenance of existing accounts, retention of existing revenues, total account and territory management, preparation of sales reports and customized proposals.

- DIGITEL is the second largest provider of wire lines in the country in terms of working lines.
- DIGITEL is the country's fastest growing and the largest telecommunications network in Luzon (outside Metro Manila) that utilizes state- of-art technology, with a fully digital backbone and computerized customer support system
- DIGITEL is majority owned by the J.G. Summit Holdings Inc., one of the largest and most diversified conglomerates in the Philippines.

Applicants may submit their curriculum vitae at :

HRRecruitment@digitel.ph
or 110 E. Rodriguez Jr. Avenue,
Libis, Quezon City.

You may also contact Clavelyn H. Draculan at 395-0093 for further inquiries

Senior Corporate Account Manager

- Excellent track record in sales, consistent achiever, assertive, enthusiastic and with initiative
- With existing network of accounts
- With at least 3 years experience in selling business solutions to the corporate market or with equivalent selling experience in the pharmaceutical industry.
- Excellent communication skills in English – oral, written and presentation skills
- Decent and pleasant personality, with professional aura
- Proficient in Word, Excel and Powerpoint
- Willing to work long hours and weekends if necessary

Junior Corporate Account Manager

- Belongs to the top 10% of the graduating class from reputable schools
- Preferably with one year sales experience
- Excellent communication skills in English - oral and written
- Decent and pleasant personality, with professional aura
- Proficient in Word and Excel
- Fast learner, willing to give an extra mile, dedicated and committed
- A consistent achiever, assertive, and enthusiastic.
- Willing to work long hours and weekends when necessary

Start building your career with us and experience stability, unlimited professional growth and a rewarding career!

ARCHITECT

Minimum five years experience in high-end projects. Proficiency in AutoCAD, computer rendering, architectural detailing, Graduate from a top school preferred. Please fax Resumé to 729-3285. Include Cover Letter.

The Quezon City Christian Academy

a Chinese Christian School subscribing to an accelerated individualized education system is looking for:

(2) TEACHERS

- born-again Christian
- preferably with teaching experience.
- BSE Major in Mathematics.

Interested applicants may send their comprehensive resumé to:
52 Mariano Cuenco St. Brgy. Lourdes, Q.C.
or call Tel. Nos. 732-2816; 712-4970

CONSUMER PRODUCT CO.

NEEDS

CCD MANAGER
- Accounting graduate
- 5 yrs. experience
- not over 40 yrs. old
- Novaliches-based
- P200k / pa

ACCOUNTANT
- Accounting graduate
- With 1 yr. experience
- Not over 35 yrs. old
- Makati-based
- P130k / pa

Call Rene at 455-1075 / 455-0867 455-5074 for interview

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

- Ultrasound Tech (Female)
With Experience in 2D Echo, Abdominal and Endovaginal Procedures
- X-Ray Tech (Female)

Send resumé to:

HEALTHLAB INC.
Rm. 802 Medical Plaza Makati,
Amorsolo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City
Tel. 8671140 Telefax: 8671141
Attention: Ms. Len Monteverde

WANTED

1. Export Sales Managers/ Sr. Merchandiser - Female.
25-30 years old, Good oral & written English, w/ minimum 3 years experience in Export. Hardworking & Computer literate
2. Fashion Accessories Designer for Export company minimum 3 years experience, 21-30 years old, Male or Female

Send resumé to:
834 Felipe Pike St.,
Bagong Ilog, Pasig City
Attn Roda Martinez 6711649

SMART, QUICK-WITTED TRAVEL WARRIORS, JOIN US!

We are a global travel management company
Our corporate direction is innovation and vision

We offer career growth, exposure to global company operations * Management development and training opportunities * Industry standard compensation * Profit incentive sharing * Rice subsidy * Hospitalization plan * Travel benefits

HEAD, DOMESTIC TRAVEL

- College graduate, preferably major in Tourism or related course
- With at least 5 years related work experience
- Good communication skills
- Organized, systematic, dynamic and strategic thinker
- A team player with good people skills

TRAVEL CONSULTANTS

- College or Vocational graduate in Travel Operation
- With at least 1 years related work experience or intensive training in basic reservation and ticketing
- Good PR and communication skills
- Organized, systematic and dynamic
- A team player

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES

- College graduate, major in Tourism, Marketing or any related course
- At least 1 year related experience in sales and marketing
- Excellent PR and interpersonal skills
- Excellent presentation and communication skills
- Very presentable and amiable
- Trustworthy, honest and dependable
- A team player

TELEPHONE OPERATOR AND ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

- College Graduate in Psychology, Management or related course
- With at least 1 year related work experience
- Organized, with good customer service skills and a team player

ACCOUNTING STAFF

- Must have at least 2 years solid work experience as a General Accountant/Financial/Budget Analyst or have worked with Auditing Firms for at least 2 Tax seasons
- CPA preferred but not required
- Results driven
- Dynamic and proactive
- Single Male/Female

Please submit your application letter indicating the position applied for and your resumé with 2x2 colored photo to:

PHILSCAN TRAVEL & TOURS INC.
2nd Floor, G & A Building 2303 Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City
Or email your resumé in word format
indicating your contact numbers to:
info@philscantravel.com

Encourage Families in Need and Care for Education (EnFaNCE) Foundation, Inc.

Is an NGO helping the families in the most depressed communities of Manila.

We are in need of: **1 Registered Social Worker (RSW), 1 Occupational Therapist (OTRP),,1 Family Counselor**

Registered Social Worker (RSW)

- To assist families in education, health and family relationship through regular home visits
- Coordination with partner agencies and networking
- Monitoring of the activities
- Reporting

Occupational Therapist Registered in the Philippines (OTRP)

- Classroom assessment
- OT evaluation of children
- New activities implementation, monitoring and documentation

Family Counselor (FC)

- To assist families in education, health and family relationship through regular home visits and networking

Requirements:

- RSW or OTRP
- At least college level for FC preferably Social worker, psychology or education
- Strong interest in improving the lives of urban poor families
- Willing to work with families in the depressed areas in Manila
- With experience and/or willing to learn and to undergo trainings
- Previous exposure to urban poor communities would be an advantage
- Good communication skills

Please send your resumé w/ cover letter, picture and copy of transcript to:

Administrative Officer
EnFaNCE Foundation
5150 Tahimik Street, Corner Delpan Street
Tondo, Manila
Or e-mail to: enfancefoundation@yahoo.com

WANTED IMMEDIATELY

PROJECT COORDINATOR

ENGLISH LANGUAGE EDUCATION IN MINDANAO

An international educational media and training organization has an immediate need for a **PROJECT COORDINATOR** to coordinate and actively implement English language instruction and enrichment programs. The project will serve various populations all over Mindanao through audio, print and face-to-face teacher and radio broadcaster training. Project beneficiaries will be students in elementary and high schools, their teachers and families, teachers in formal training programs, older students of English, and general radio audiences.
He/She will work in decentralized team assisting the Project Manager while also working very independently to assure that schools and communities are using the materials effectively. He/She will monitor all activities and identify ways the project can improve services; seek opportunities to extend services to new communities; manage materials production and distribution; procure supplies; coordinate and assist trainings of teachers and broadcasters; liaise with educational and broadcast partner institutions in Cotabato, Zamboanga, Manila and elsewhere; identify problems and issues and propose solutions; prepare status reports; manage and track expenditures; and do other specified tasks.
Minimum requirements are: a bachelor's degree in a relevant field such as education, development communications, public or business administration; (one or more years of graduate studies is desirable, masters degree preferred); at least 4 years of progressive responsibility in project or related management in the field of education; ability to develop and maintain a wide range of contacts with educational and other government officials; excellent organizational, interpersonal and communication (oral and written) skills; computer literate. Must have extensive knowledge (possibly resident) of the cultures of Mindanao (esp. ARMM, Region 12 and Region 9). English language teaching experience is a major plus. Competitive salary (including year-end bonuses).

Interested persons should send their application letter and comprehensive resumé not later than **January 23, 2005**. Mail should be sent to:

RWP Human Resources
c/o SEAMEO INNOTECH Regional Center
P.O. Box 207, University of the Philippines,
Diliman, Quezon City 1101, Philippines
It is greatly preferred and appreciated if candidates send duplicate email to:
sleigh64@aol.com

SEND YOUR RESUMÉS INSTANTLY
VISIT US AT
www.jobmarketonline.com
JOB Market

MATRIX HUMAN RESOURCES & CONSULTANTS INC.,

POEA LIC. NO. – 175-LB-122804-PL
670 T.M. KALAW ST., ERMITA, MANILA

WEHAYA SDN BHD – MALAYSIA
PETRONAS VDP for Electrical & Instrument
POEA Accreditation #10064405

10-NDT Inspectors (Welding/Piping)
10-Piping Engineers
10-Instrumentation Engineers
5-Mechanical Engineers (RE)
5-Mechanical Team Leaders
5-Mechanical Foreman (RE)
5-Mechanical Foreman (Workshop)
5 - Instrumentation Supervisors
20-Mechanical Fitters
20-Instrument Technicians
5- Mechanical Helpers (RE)
15-Mechanical Helpers (Wkshp)
5 Industrial Electrician (Power/Dist.)
5 Warehousemen

INTERESTED CANDIDATES SHOULD HAVE NO LESS THAN FIVE (5) YEARS EXPERIENCE IN OIL & GAS-Petrochemical companies/refineries.

Manpower Pooling Only

PROFESSIONAL PERSONNEL REQUIREMENTS

PROJECT MANAGEMENT/TURNAROUND

> Project Director
> Project Manager
> Project Engineer
> Project Control Manager
> Project Control Engineer
> Scheduler
> Cost Estimator
> Quantity Surveyor
> QA Manager
> QA Engineer/Specialist
> HSE Manager
> HSE Engineer/Specialist
> Accountant
> Office Administrative/Executive
> Turnaround Manager
> Preparation Engineer
> Turnaround Planner

ENGINEERING:

> Engineering Manager
> Process Engineer (Process /Utility/Off-sites/Tech. Safety & Environment
> Mechanical Engineer
> (Rotating/Static/Piping
> Civil Engineer (Civil/Structural)
> Electrical Engineer (Power/System/Package
> Instrument Engineer (Field/ System/Scada/Telecom
> Pipeline Engineer (Onshore
> Engineering Designers
> Engineering Draftsman /Drafters

OIL DRILLING DIVISION

> Drilling Superintendent
> Sr. Drilling Supervisor
> Night Drilling Supervisor
> Sr. Drilling Engineer
> Sr. Fluid Engineer
> Pump Men
> Jacking Technician
> Slick-line Supervisor
> Well Technicians
> Shutdown Planning Engineer
> Shutdown Administrator
> Drillers
> Assistant Drillers
> Commissioning Manager
> Commissioning Specialist – RE/ Static/Pipeline/Elect./Inst.
> Start Up Specialist
> Slick-line Operator
> Slick-line Assistants
> Well Site Geologist
> Shutdown Technicians
> Rig Crane Operators Offshore

Construction:

> Construction Manager
> Construction Superintendent (Civil/Mech./Elect./Inst./Scada/Comm
> Welding/NDT Inspector / Supervisor
> Civil Inspector / Supervisor
> Mech./Piping Inspector/ Supervisor
> E & I Inspector / Supervisor
> Pipeline Inspector / Supervisor
> QA/QC Inspector / Supervisor
> Construction Engineer
> Rigger
> Scaffolder
> Safety Advisor/Officer
> X-Ray Auditor
> Surveyor

Submit 3 sets of Resume with pictures, Certificate of Employment, Copy of Passport, NBI & Diskette in MS Word Resume File personally to address abovementioned, or email it to matrixconsultants@itworksservices.net

BEWARE OF ILLEGAL RECRUITERS * NO FEES TO BE COLLECTED

Britton Distributions, Inc.

MEDICAL INFORMATION ASSOCIATE

We are looking for professionals who ...

- Can handle technical and professional discussions with doctors.
- Can provide the linkage between the client, the medical and allied professions.

You must be:

- A college graduate, preferably with Science background.
- Excellent in interpersonal relations.
- Proficient in conversational English.
- Pleasing personality, at least 5'2" in height for females and 5'8" for male applicants.
- Willing to accept assignment anywhere in the Philippines, specifically in the areas of Ilocos, Laguna, Batangas, Quezon and Bicol.
- Not more than 28 years old.

If you have the abovementioned qualifications, please bring your application letter, resumé with picture, transcript of records, and come for an interview at:

#138 West Avenue, Quezon City
on January 17-19 at 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
e-mail: britton_dist@yahoo.com

We offer a compensation package within the industry standard, a comprehensive training program, an attractive incentive package and opportunities for career advancement.

Please come in business attire.

We are the exclusive affiliate of a worldwide training and consulting organization providing results-oriented training and consulting services to Fortune 500 companies and top Philippine organizations. We have an immediate opening for:

Account Managers

Who

- *Can plan and implement account management strategies with our existing client base, and capitalize/leverage new business opportunities;*
- *Can initiate account development strategies with new client prospects;*
- *Can be a differentiating feature of doing business with existing clients and new prospects through superior consulting and value-added services.*

The candidates we seek should have:

- *A minimum of 3 years sales and/or account development experience*
- *A college degree, preferab' from a reputable university*
- *Track record in sales and account development*
- *Excellent communication skills (a must)*

To the successful applicants, we offer:

- *A competitive compensation package, plus a sales incentive and bonus plan;*
- *A car plan; and,*
- *Extensive training opportunities to develop personal management, leadership and professional selling skills.*

Please fax or e-mail your resumé and recent 2x2 photo to:

info@meginc.com.ph
fax 638.6990

Rapu Rapu Processing Inc (RRPI)

Polymetallic Mining Project

RRPI are presently developing a Polymetallic Mining and Processing Project on Rapu Rapu Island and will require a skilled workforce to perform various maintenance functions on its associated Process Plant and 10MW PowerStation.

As only single status aocommodation is available applicants must be prepared to live on site single status.
Accommodation and messing is provided free of charge onsite.

The following skilled maintenance personnel are invited to submit their CV's as expressions of interest in becoming part of the maintenance crew for this new mining project:

1. **Mechanical Fitter / Welder Tradesmen.**
2. **Electrical / Instrumentation Tradesmen.**
3. **PowerStation Mechanical Tradesmen.**
4. **Mobile Crane Operator / Rigger.**
5. **Tradesmen Assistant.**

Requirements:

- Experienced with maintenance of Mining / Processing or Heavy Industrial plant & equipment.
- A positive self motivated attitude and desire to be a team member.
- Total commitment to comply with safe working procedures.

Each applicants CV shall include the following;

- A recent passport size photo.
- Complete personal details including contact telephone number.
- Previous work experience and history.
- Up to date references with relevant referees current contact details.

Interested personnel are to submit their applications as 'expressions of interest', before 31st January 2005 to;

The Manager – Engineering
Rapu Rapu Processing, Inc.
Unit 21, Legaspi Suites,
178 Salcedo Street,
Legaspi Village, Makati City

A Renowned Publishing & Printing Company
Has Opening for High-Caliber & Dynamic Individuals for the following positions:

STAFF WRITER

- M/F, Single, not over 27 years old
- Degree Holder major in any Science field
- Above-average written & oral communication skills
- Computer proficient preferably in MAC applications
- Deadline – oriented & self motivated
- Writing experience is a plus

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT for Social Studies

- M/F, Single, not over 27 years old
- Degree Holder preferably of Education maj. in Social Studies / AB History graduate
- Equipped with good command of oral and written communication
- Computer proficient preferably in MAC applications
- Self-motivated and deadline-oriented
- Teaching/Writing experience is a plus

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT for English

- M/F, Single, not over 27 years old
- Degree Holder preferably of Education maj. in English / Communication Arts
- Above-average mastery of written English
- Computer proficient preferably in MAC applications
- Self-motivated and deadline-oriented
- Teaching/Writing experience is a plus

HR ASSISTANT

- Preferably male, Single, not over 27 years old
- Graduate of psychology or any Behavioral Science course
- Familiar with psychological tests administration
- Computer proficient
- Good interpersonal & communication skills
- Fresh graduates are welcome to apply

ACCOUNTING STAFF

- M/F, Single, not over 27 years old
- BS Accountancy graduate
- 1-2 years of work experience in similar field
- Good communication skills
- Personable / Computer proficient

SALES SERVICE CLERK

- Male, Single, not over 27 years old
- Graduate of any business course
- Computer proficient
- Good oral & written communication
- Personable / must stand at least 5'7"

WAREHOUSE HELPERS

- Male / Single not over 28 years old
- At least 2nd year College level (preferably of business/engineering courses)
- Height Requirement: 5'7": Physically fit
- Computer proficient / good typing skills

Qualified candidates may drop off or mail their resumé (with contact nos.) w/ recent 2x2 colored photo and Transcript of Records at:

THE PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT
1253 G. Araneta Avenue, Q.C. (near Talayan Village)

Hotel PonteFino
BATANGAS CITY

A Business Hotel with De Luxe Facilities in Batangas City

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES

(Manila and Batangas-Based

- With at least two years hotel or pensionne house sales experience
- Possesses excellent people and communication skills
- Enjoys field work; has a good network of clients/contacts.
- Graduate of any four-year course preferable business-related
- Female; not more than 32 years old.

Qualified applicants can send their resumés to:

HR Management Group
24th Floor, IBM Plaza
Eastwood City, Libis, Quezon City

Human Resources Department
Hotel Pontefino
Pastor Village Gulod Labac,
Batangas City

Or you may email us at
hrd@pontefino.com.ph

May we request applicants to enclose a 2 x 2 photo, transcript of records and certificates of previous employment
(Positions available up to January 29, 2005)

ANY MORE FUN AND IT'D BE ILLEGAL.

Multimedia Entertainment Organization has several "to die for" positions available

LICENSING EXECUTIVES/BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS

Young & mature-minded, 26-32 yrs old, experienced in Sales Production, Intellectual Properties and Franchise Selling. Graduate of Marketing or any business-related course. With at least 4 yrs exp. in Sales/Marketing Account Management. Preferably with own car. Chinese speaking is an asset. Free to travel here & abroad

MARKETING ASSISTANTS / BRAND OFFICERS

Can write/do it all to assist in Marketing, Sales, Advertising, Promotions, public relations, research, copy/creative writing, etc. with minimum supervision. Must be a natural hyperactive human between 264 to 312 full moons, taller than 66 inches with 2 to 3 yrs. working experience in a Marketing environment. Must love the GOOD LIFE. A real go-getter when it comes to work. In 7 simple words, JACK OF ALL TRADES, MASTER OF SOME. Free to travel here and abroad. Willing to work long hours when required.

The pace is super-fast, the atmosphere ultra-positive and the rewards unlimited such as foreign travel. If you are ready for this opportunity and not afraid of things that "look like work", then send in your comprehensive resume & passport size photo to: empirent@mozcom.com or mail to

P.O. BOX 465 GREENHILLS 1502

To see if you're qualified to join us or to see what else is available visit;
http://www.empiremultimedia.com

LEGEND INTERNATIONAL RESORTS LIMITED

A prestigious Casino / Hotel located at Subic Bay Freeport Zone is currently in need of:

SURVEILLANCE EXECUTIVE

JOB SUMMARY:
Directs, coordinates and oversees the activities of the Surveillance personnel in monitoring gaming tables, slot operations, count rooms, cashier cages and downtime activity in the Casino and support areas:

Qualifications:
- Minimum of three (3) years in Surveillance Operations Department, with at least one (1) year experience as Surveillance Supervisor (Executive);
- College graduate (any four-year course);
- Strong interpersonal skills and analytical ability;
- Excellent oral and written communication skills, especially in English;,
- Fair and objective;
- Must have flexible working habit

JR. SURVEILLANCE EXECUTIVE

JOB SUMMARY:
Assists the Surveillance Executives in their duties and supervises the CCTV room in their absence.

Qualifications:
- Minimum of three (3) years in Surveillance Operations Department;
- College graduate (any four-year course);
- Strong interpersonal skills and analytical ability;
- Excellent oral and written communication skills;
- Must have flexible working habit;
- Can work under pressure;

SURVEILLANCE OFFICER

JOB SUMMARY:
Observes all activities of guests and employees on the Casino floor, cashier cages, slot operations, count rooms, slot operations, count rooms and support areas, via the CCTV system, for any irregularity and the compliance of Company policies and procedures.

Qualifications:
- Minimum of one (1) year experience as Surveillance Officer;
- College graduate (any four-year course);
- Overseas exposure is an advantage;
- Strong interpersonal skills and analytical ability;
- Excellent oral and written communication skills;
- Must have flexible working habit;
- Can work under pressure;

JUNIOR SURVEILLANCE OFFICER

JOB SUMMARY:
Monitors gaming and support areas with the aid of CCTV. Prepares incident and other related reports as may be required by the Surveillance Officer / Executive.

Qualifications:
- Minimum of one year Gaming experience as Inspector or above;
- College graduate of any course;
- Knowledge of conducting investigations and report writing is an advantage;
- Keen observer;
- Strong analytical ability;
- Good oral and written communication skills;
- Computer literate;
- Can work under pressure;
- Patient and honest;
- Overseas exposure is an advantage

VIP SERVICES EXECUTIVE

JOB SUMMARY:
Assists the VIP Services Manager and Asst. VIP Services Manager in the operational and administrative requirements of the VIP Services Department.

Qualifications:
- College graduate of any course;
- Minimum of three (3) years experience in Casino Industry;
- Minimum of two (2) years exposure in junket operations and negotiations;
- Above average written and oral communication skills;
- Knowledge of any Asian language is an advantage;
- Strong interpersonal skills;
- Possesses leadership qualities;
- Excellent public relations skills

VIP SERVICES COORDINATOR

JOB SUMMARY:
Qualified applicants will be tasked to liaise with various hotel departments and to provide service that is uniquely LIRL

Qualifications:
- College graduate of any course;
- Fluent in Mandarin, Hokkien and/or Korean languages;
- At least one (1) year experience in customer service;
- with excellent written and oral communication skills;
- Strong interpersonal skills;
- Patient and flexible;
- Prepared to work overtime when required.

Residents of Olongapo, Zambales, Bataan, Pampanga and/or other areas in Central Luzon are preferred. Interested applicants may send / submit their resumés / bio-data with supporting documents and recent 2x2 photo to:

**LEGEND INTERNATIONAL RESORTS LIMITED
Recruitment & Training Office
2F Oak Bldg., Legenda Suites, Cubi Point,
Subic Bay Freeport Zone, Olongapo City 2200
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- ✓ Handle export house accounts
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- ✓ Oversee and direct the market research function
- ✓ Supervise the administration work within the marketing and business development group

Qualifications:

- ✓ A graduate of BS Busines Administration or Marketing, BS Industrial Engineering or related course; preferably male, an MBA degree will be a plus
- ✓ Have worked as a Product Manager or Marketing Manager in a food or beverage company for at least 5 years (experience in exports is a must)
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The **Administrative Manager**
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- Female, single, 20-26 years old
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Maan/Penny (Tel: 6346273) or Email at cascade_78@yahoo.com

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Telemarketer

- At least Management graduate with one (1) year experience in the same field
- Has good communication skills

Business Coordinator

- Candidate must have Accounting background
- Has excellent communication skills

Sales Director

- At least 28 years old
- Graduate in Management, Accounting or Computer Science
- Skills in IT software selling
- Experience Managing sales person for 3 years
- Experience in handling large customer accounts at least for 2 years
- MBA is a plus

Marketing Director

- At least 25 years old
- Experienced working in the IT industry is a plus
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- Very good communication skills in written and oral English is a must

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E-mail resumé to pageshophr@yahoo.com or call 7274784 and look for Bianca

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WANTED FOR IMMEDIATE EMPLOYMENT

St. Catherine Realty Corporation (SCRC), awarded by Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board (HLURB) as the leading Developer of the Year 2003 (open housing category) is in need of the following personnel:

- ■ Two (2) Licensed Civil Engineer
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  Experience: - 5 years minimum experience in preparation of design, estimates, specification & contract doc. (for ofc eng'r.)
- ■ One (1) Accountant & Two (2) Accounting Clerk
  Experience: With at least 3 yrs. exp. in general accounting
- ■ One (1) System Administrator (Computer Eng'g or Comp. Science graduate)
  Experience - With at least 3 yrs. exp. in programming & networking
- ■ Two (2) Sales Office Marketing Staff
  Position: Office Marketing Officer
  Experience: – 1 year Clerical/Marketing Experience
- ■ Assignment: Angeles City (main office), Pampanga & Bulacan

For interested applicants, please send your application and resumé at SCRC office, Angeles-Magalang Road, Pandan, Angeles City or call Engr. Mario B. Mallari, at Tel. Nos. (045) 887-4142 to 46.

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LOOK FOR BECCA, CHONA and ALLAN

Lafayette (Philippines), Inc. is seeking a suitably qualified and experienced person for its Makati-based position of:

ACCOUNTANT

The successful candidate will be holding a professional staff position and will be responsible for the day-to-day accounting services in accordance with company policies and procedures.

Job Requirement:
- Holder of a bachelor's degree in Accounting. CPA is a must.
- At least three (3) years of relevant experience in all facets of general accounting.
- Capable of working with minimum supervision and maintain composure under pressure.
- Proficiency in oral and written English.
- Computer literate preferably with experience in computerized accounting systems.

Qualified candidates may send comprehensive resume' with recent passport size picture before 21 January 2005 to:

**The Finance Manager
Lafayette (Philippines), Inc.
S21 Legaspi Suites, 178 Salcedo Street
Legaspi Village, Makati City**

Shakey's

SM CITY MARILAO, BULACAN

RESTAURANT MANAGER/ MANAGEMENT TRAINEES:

- ➢ Male or Female preferably not more than 30 years old and with pleasing personality
- ➢ College graduate
- ➢ At least 2 years experience in the same capacity in a reputable food chain/ restaurant preferred

RESTAURANT STAFF:

- ➢ Male or Female 18-24 years old with good oral communication skills and pleasing personality
- ➢ At least 2nd year college.

Email your resume with 2x2 colored picture at ryng@shakeyspizza.ph or mail to International Family Food Services, Inc., AFP-RSBS Ind. Park Km.12 East Services Rd., c5 Junction South Super H-way Taguig Metro Manila.

URGENT NEED

Seasoned individuals in the management and delivery of Business Development Services to SMEs are invited to apply for the position of

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Qualifications:
- ✓ With more than 3 years successful experience in conducting training events and seminars on a regional and national level.
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- ✓ Can deal and work effectively with all types of people.
- ✓ Can effectively write reports and proposals.
- ✓ Can work with a minimum supervision.
- ✓ Preferably with development work experience.
- ✓ Preferably a graduate of Industrial Engineering, Psychology or related Social Science courses
- ✓ Preferably connected with a wide network of consultants and trainers

Product Designers with more than 3 years work experience are also welcome to apply.

For qualified applicants immediately send your letter of intent and resumés to jrdelacruz@apfti.org.ph or fax it to (02)-454-1567. Deadline for application is on January 22, 2005.

The world of work according to Dana

By Dana MVC
Contributor

(Last of the series)

Chapter 9
Memory Lane

Starting my own advertising business was one of the quickest decisions I made in my career life.

This was the time when I enjoyed earning a few hundred thousand bucks just after enduring a couple of sleepless weeknights and gulping jugs of coffee doing creative work. It was then that my real confidence in commercial writing surged.

However, success at this speed made me nervous. Glory felt too superficial. My fears were right. In the months that followed, accounts didn't come in regularly, bringing the business to financial ruin. For the first time in my life, my unpaid personal bills for phone lines, credit card, cable and other items piled up. Previously, I could ignore my mother's discriminatory remarks on my meager contribution to defray household expenses. Now, I felt I was marked with shame and dishonor. I had failed once again. The glory didn't last, fulfilling the dire expectations of my family. I was irreversibly heart broken.

The greatest pressure for me to perform came not from my family but from myself. I kept pinning myself down, thought constantly of my failures and frustrations before going to sleep, if ever I was lucky enough to be able to sleep. I missed the old days when I would endlessly write poems and short stories in my Math notebooks turned diaries, send my teachers and classmates to fits of laughter with my queer and instantly organized ice breaker skits, sing odd songs together with my friends, and struggle with my office adversaries. I did all these and more before. Now, I had turned into a snail, crawling blindly towards a dream.

Everything was empty ... pocket, mind, and heart. I watched television all day wishing that a rope hang around my neck. One day, I wanted to proceed with my death plan. But HBO was airing "The Quick And The Dead." I had seen this film a hundred times, but I couldn't help but finish watching it before implementing my death plan.

ILLUSTRATION BY ANTHONY MISTADES

Suddenly, I imagined myself removing the leash around my neck. I took my journal and pen, pulled out a piano chair and from there, I started scribbling a storyline about a heroine who, like "The Lady" in "The Quick And The Dead," was just as feisty and strong-willed in character and spirit. The character in my story however didn't turn out to be a replica of "The Lady." Mine was more of a villain than a heroine. Nonetheless, the magical thing was that I swiftly finished the story, as if I was writing it when I was in my high school days, unmindful of all the agitation around me. I completely immersed myself in my imagination. This defining moment saved me.

The following dawn, I couldn't wait to work on my computer and do the screenplay of the storyline, which I had written. Soon, days turned into weeks, and weeks turned into months. I typed in the wee hours, where the tranquil sleepiness of the world energized me.

Still, beneath all the energy, my depression didn't easily fade away. The pressure of zero account in my business kept me weary as I continued receiving various disconnection notices for my unpaid bills. My family was getting more and more tantalized by my sister Pat's whopping dollars and pesos provided both by her job and her husband. I lost all my family's remaining confidence in me. As for my mother, she watched my every move, waiting for any progress report I could sensibly make.

With all the gloominess clouding my mind, I learned to open my eyes and notice the tiniest light of hope pushing its way through the darkness. It was a glimmer created that very moment I was writing the story. I discovered what I had always wanted to be: a storyteller.

I began to exhume all the stories that I had kept and written in my journals even from way back in school. Amazingly, I still found excitement in all of them.

After three months, I finished my 288-paged screenplay and soon after applied for a copyright certification at the national public library. It was the first piece I could truly be proud of, and it didn't even matter if it would be appreciated by the critics or not. Finishing the piece was my greatest personal achievement. That and my realizations kept me going.

Chapter 10
Crossing Over

Thank God my rendezvous with death had been cancelled.

Indeed, the way I sunk myself too deeply to depression that fateful day was what saved me. "Where else but in the dark, can you see the light."

Who would have thought that the miserable, pocket-empty months that went by became a wonderful opportunity for me to focus on my personal writing ventures. It felt "naked" seeing myself this thoroughly. To be reminded of who I really am—an author of stories—one who used to shy away from the world, but now can fully submit to the expressions of the heart. I must say that this kind of writing is not only my career but my life. As such, it deserves respect and not neglect at any point in my life.

I submitted the screenplay to the people I knew in the film industry, and wrote a few more storylines that I could proceed right away with after that first major piece.

Meanwhile, I struggled, drawing inspiration from nothing but imagination while my business was falling apart. A few savings here and there allowed me, in my vulnerable condition, to survive. I learned to be highly economical (as if that was something new).

Miraculously, I didn't pin myself down so cruelly like I used to. Hope was enormously strong. This positive spirit could be a prognosis of good things to come.

After a year of waiting for that good spirit to come alive, I wondered what must I do next. The agonizing mystery of the future frightened and excited me at the same time.

After a couple of months, I took on a part-time writing job and wrote my own stories every dawn at home.

Today, I have a dream, one that I hope will come true soon. This is how it goes: I find myself with a film crew. I watch the actors speak words I've long imagined them saying. Production assistants are everywhere and one is stirring coffee for me; the other, busily distributing copies of shooting schedules to the rest of the technical team. At a corner sits the producer observing the momentum of the filming. And beside me is the director, thanking me for writing a great story and following the awakening of my heart.

Today, I ask myself, can this dream truly become reality? Perhaps, you will read me again after a few years. Then you will know if I did succeed.

'Do companies...

From page 7 ★★

themselves.

In the Philippines, human auction might be far off—after all, it seems like a buyer's market here. But what innovations in job hunting and recruiting can we expect soon?

This paper, Philippine Daily Inquirer, with Manila Broadcasting Company, STI, Quantum X and Optimus Innovations, Inc. as partners, will soon launch a nationwide online recruiting project that will facilitate job matching between jobseekers and employers. This is a laudable project that, perhaps, this government should help push. Watch out for further announcements in this paper.

Meanwhile, if you want to succeed, learn to adapt to changing ways in the workplace. If the rest of the world goes online, be sure that you are ready. Or else, it will hit you like a tsunami and you'll never know why!

Quote of the week

"In order to satisfy the idiosyncrasies of the scanning process, a new resumé style, utilizing keywords, has developed. Keywords refer to those words or phrases that are used for searches of databases for resumés that match. This match is called a hit and occurs when one or more resumés are selected as matching the criteria used in the search. –Wayne R. Gonyea (Cecilia, "How to Get a Job," 2000)

(Mr. Cecilia is the president and CEO of EC Business Solutions and Career Center, a human resource consulting firm. He was president of the Personnel Management Association of the Philippines or PMAP in 1999. His career books are available at popular bookstores. E-mail feedback to ec4u@edsamail.com .ph.*)*

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All applicant should be good in oral/written English, single male or female below 29 years of age.

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What do you need to learn from a job interview?

DEAR WW: I always go into a job interview totally focused on how I'll answer their questions. But a friend recently reminded me that there is one very important question that they need to answer for me, "Do I want to work here?"

Two-way Street

ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

"15 Injured in Kite Contests" was the title of a recent report on Britain's Independent TV. This unlikely headline was no mistake. A kite contest in Gujarat, India has gotten so competitive that participants use such tactics as coating twine with powdered glass to try to win the competition.

I'd hate to go into that kite contest not knowing what the ground rules were. It's no different when you're trying to get a job. You've got to put in as much energy trying to figure out if you want to work for them as they put into deciding if they want to hire you. I've listed key questions you need answered below. For more, check out Ron Fry's book "101 Smartest Questions to Ask in Your Interview" (Career Press, 2003).

Can I do this job? All hubris aside, it is important to see if you have what it takes to do the job. Take a hard look at the job duties to see if you are capable of getting the job done.

WORKING WOUNDED

Bob Rosner

Do I want to do this job? I can't tell you how many times people have written to me to say that they thought that their job would be very different than it turned out to be. See if you can talk to people actually doing the job to be sure that the job is something you want to do before you sit down for your interview.

Does this job fit with my long-range plans? There are times when you just need to take a job, any job. But it's much better to have a long-term goal in mind for your career and to use each job to get a bit closer to it.

Will I fit in? If the company doesn't include employees in the interview process, ask if you can get a tour of the facility so you can see where you'll actually work. This should give you a chance to meet some of your potential coworkers.

Can I live on what they want to pay? Your negotiating clout is at its maximum the moment they offer you the job and then it drops dramatically. I've heard from a lot of people who are frustrated that they didn't ask for more when the company wanted to hire them, so negotiate while you have the most leverage.

Do I feel secure working here? What are the future prospects for the company? Get a stock report, go check them out at your library, do a search for old newspaper articles and check out their website.

Find out everything you can about the company before your interview, you may decide to tell them to go fly a kite.

Here are the results from a recent workingwounded.com/ABCnews.com online ballot: What is the most important factor to you when deciding if you should take a job?

—Who I'll be doing it with/for, 18.6 percent

—How much they'll pay, 18.6 percent

—What I'll be doing, 62 percent

(Mr. Rosner, an internationally syndicated columnist, author and speaker, is based in Seattle, Washington, USA. E-mail him at bob@workingwounded.com.)

'Do companies have ...

From page 9 ★★

as you can and impress him with your digital resumé. If he finds your resumé unremarkable, it is very easy to delete it. In case your digital self (resumé) gets noticed, you still need to present your corporeal self for interviews.

If you think this situation presents a problem for you or for the millions of jobless who are not computer literate, let's extrapolate and see how recruiting or job hunting can get easier or more difficult in the near future. Through the Net, prospective employees will electronically screen candidates for "soft" skills, direct them to a special website for IQ and skills testing, conduct background check through the Net, and interview candidates via a videolink.

Executive hiring

What about those who are not graduates of computer courses? In the USA, 7 out of 10 online jobseekers are not graduates of technical courses. This trend is just going to run roughshod over those who cannot adapt to change.

What about higher-level positions—are they also available through the Net? Many large companies are beginning to find even vice presidents through online recruitment. It is not unwise anymore to make your own personal website and advertise your competencies. In the USA, many topnotch people "advertise" and "sell" themselves to prospective employers by having their own website.

Online applications

In the light of these developments, how do we prepare to compete for jobs online? Here are a few useful tips:

1. Make a digital resumé that's ready for the web. Avoid lengthy descriptions of your past work experiences—focus on what you can do to contribute to your prospective employer.

2. Highlight keywords that describe your competencies better. In the past, you have a good resumé that describes how you "drove inventory reduction initiatives." Verbs are not as relevant now as key nouns—skills, software programs, database, etc.

3. Chronology is out; competencies (knowledge, skills, abilities) are in. Your resumé must get you noticed quickly—you can tell them of your work history later during the interview. Highlight your KSAs, using industry catchwords and buzzwords—such as re-engineering, outsourcing, just-in-time logistics, etc.

4. Use hot-button terms such as LAN, WAN, Blue Tooth, regional sourcing, project management, and other relevant business terms.

5. Forget the fancy italics and boldface in formatting. Online databases can't understand them and scanners can scramble such terms as cum laude into "corn dude."

Human auction

How more radical can job search and recruiting be in the future?

In 1994, a 38-year old Jeff Taylor launched an Internet site called Monster Board where job applicants can post their digital resumés for free and prospective employers pay to access such database and post their job openings. In five years, Monster.com had over 2,000,000 visits a month, 226,000 job openings, 1.5 million resumés, and $90 million in revenues in 1999.

Taylor now thinks of "human auction" where workers sell themselves to the highest bidder. Of course, this concept is met with both enthusiasm and derision from various sectors. Whether this will come true in the near future or not, it is better for hopeful job applicants to prepare

DO/P.6★★

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WOULD you like to be part of a family that can help you in your career growth and development? Join the People at Work community where members support each other in the quest for a better career and life. People at Work columnists, writers and editorial staff will also be part of this group to lend you a helping hand. Working professionals, jobseekers, human resource executives and practitioners, managers, trainers, consultants and all others willing to share and help are welcome to join. Members will have access to updates and discounts on People at Work events, advice from People at Work columnists and writers and other members, chat schedules with members and "eyeball" events. To join, send your name, gender, civil status, age, contact number, e-mail address and company name and position title (if applicable) to peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph or fax to tel. no. (632) 938-2092 or text to 02-937-0376 from Mondays to Fridays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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- Interpersonal and Communication Skills, Analytical Skills, Report Writing Skills

Responsibilities:
- To provide recruitment, selection and employment services and maintain an HR information system.

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Qualifications:
- Accounting graduate, preferably Certified Public Accountant (CPA)
- At least 2 years experience in auditing
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Working Group for an ASEAN Human Rights Mechanism

The Working Group for an ASEAN Human Rights Mechanism is in need of a:

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The successful applicant should hold a university degree from a reputable university and have professional experience in political or corporate communications. A background in human rights advocacy is an advantage.

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ACCOUNTANT III	18	OSEC-DOHB-A3-14-1998	• Bachelor's Degree in Commerce/ Business Administration major in Accounting • 2 years of relevant experience • 8 hours of relevant training • Certified Public Accountant (RA 1080)

Qualified Applicants may submit their application letter, comprehensive resumé with picture, diploma, TOR, NBI Clearance, Authenticated Birth Certificate and Certificate of Eligibilities to the Personnel Section from Monday to Friday, 8 am to 5 pm. Deadline of submission of applications will be on or before January 31, 2005.

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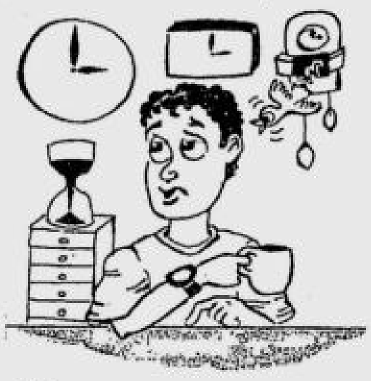
How to handle workplace blues

BEST ★ Attitudes

By Teresa Reyes Tunay, OCDS
Illustration by Rolando Reyes

THE "BLEAHS" at the workplace—everybody gets it now and then, even those who have the most exciting jobs on earth. Whether you're managing an airline or running a *lugawan*, times come when work is the last thing you'd want to do. You simply lose interest in doing what you normally do. You find it boring and tiresome and worse, you seem stuck, not knowing why this is so, how long it will last, nor what to do about it. If and when you catch yourself in such a situation, straighten up and make an effort to understand the situation. Probe your inner depths, and to help you do that, check out if you're indulging in these danger signs:

1 Do you daydream a lot? Yes, when you wish things were different but do not do anything to improve them.



2 Do you clock-watch? What? You're just back from a coffee break and you're already waiting impatiently for five o'clock?

3 Do you repeat mistakes way too often? You can't see why or how you did the same routine thing wrong three times last week ...

4 Do you drag your feet? Yes, when even the simplest tasks seem so hard to do.

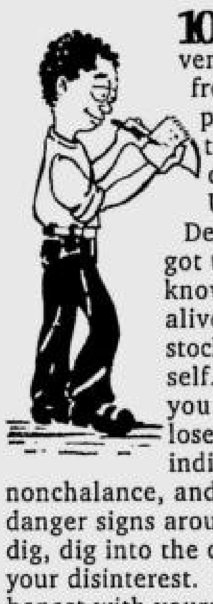
5 Do you nitpick? Fault-finding has become your favorite past time, yet you do nothing but complain.

6 Do you procrastinate? What does it take to return a client's call? A few seconds, yet you keep putting it off for "later."

7 Are you feeling burnt out? Fatigued within the first two hours of the day? You seem to be doing more but accomplishing less...

8 Are you tempted to drop out? You've ceased enjoying even the fun activities you used to do with coworkers—company outings, summer sportsfests, etc.

9 Your boss or *bisor* can smell you out—if you're truly enthusiastic about your job or just going through the motions. When you see all the above danger signs creeping up on you, know that they have a way of building up—like a tsunami of sorts—until they overpower you and suck you into a workplace Never-never Land.



10 To prevent a disaster from catapulting you to the Hall of the Ungrateful Dead, you've got to let others know you're alive! Take stock of yourself. See what you stand to lose by your indifference or nonchalance, and turn those danger signs around. Dig, dig, dig into the causes of your disinterest. If you're honest with yourself, you'll find that the root causes are really within you. You won't do anyone, most of all yourself, any good by blaming others for the rut you're in.

GOAL
RESUME

11 Remember the first time you landed that job? What were your goals, plans and hopes then? Were they realized or achieved? Would there be a remarkable improvement on your resumé from then to now?

12 Your present lack of interest at work could lead you to many paths. You could stay on but with renewed vigor and fresh goals in doing the very same work, or you could leave the company, switch careers or go OYO (On Your Own). Wherever this thorny phase leads you, always aim for the truth. The ability to face the truth about oneself is a major step in one's worklife, whatever your work happens to be. So have the courage to face the truth about yourself, and you'll forever be a winner.

13 One last word: work is God-given; be thankful for it and handle it with love and care, as you would a precious gift, and it will serve you well.

'Do companies have a new way of recruiting?'

By Ernie O. Cecilia FPM

ASK YOUR CAREER COUNSELOR

I GRADUATED in Mass Communications in a reputable university last year. Until now, I have no job yet. I had a few interviews, but that's as far as I got. I guess it's hard to find a good job these days. Even my elder brother who I think has great potential is still stuck in his career as a contractual employee.

I mailed my resumé to several large companies but I never got a reply from them. Don't they respond anymore to job applicants? Is there a new way of recruiting that I must understand?

Please give me some tips on how to apply and get a good job.

Confused Hopeful

I guess that the new way to get a job is also the new way for large companies to recruit topnotch people—online.

As early as five years ago, the Fortune Global 500 companies were actively recruiting on the Net. Five years ago in the United States, 2.5 million resumés were online, and 28,500 job boards, led by Monster.com and Careerpath.com, were bringing job applicants and employers together.

In the Philippines, many job sites have long been helping employers and candidates meet online (*Philippine Daily Inquirer's job site is* www.jobmarketonline.com. - *PaW Ed.*), The Department of Labor and Employment also has its Jobphilnet.com and hopefully, the local government unit's PESO (public employment service office) could go online soon.

Recruitment realities

Let's face some harsh realities. You'll never get hired unless your prospective employer notices you. The fastest and, perhaps, cheapest way to get noticed is through the Internet. Incidentally, the cheapest way for companies to hire is also through the Internet. Large companies in the Philippines have websites that also announce their job vacancies. You can apply online or e-mail your resumé. Through the Net or e-mail, you will get noticed and get a reply fast. Most companies are striving to be paperless and will not bother going through volumes of paper resumés they receive everyday, unless yours is highly remarkable.

Of course, the Net facilitates only the first step in a long and sometimes winding hiring process. But it is a very important first step. In a labor surplus economy like that of the Philippines, prospective employers have the luxury of choosing the best from among hundreds of applicants for a single position. The key, therefore, is to get the attention of the recruiter as fast

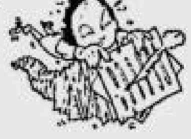
DO/P. 7★★

ILLUSTRATION BY ANTHONY MISTADES

What's inside

Working Wounded: What do you need to learn from a job interview? p. 7★★

The world of work according to Dana p. 6★★



Are you a child or an adult?

By Teresa R. Tunay, OCDS

BEING childlike (not childish) can be your best ticket to job satisfaction especially in a work environment that is rife with deceit and one-upmanship. As the good bishop here says, the workplace could turn into a veritable jungle with carnivores snarling at one another for the biggest chunk of meat. That is, if most or all of the people there are "adults," because "adults" are those who have grown to be so set in their self-sufficient ways that they have forgotten what it's like to be a "child."

The child has traits that the adult in his cockiness has unfortunately junked: innocence, a readiness to trust, and a willingness to share whatever he has. The child has the ability to be a receiver of gifts, believing that the gifts are coming from an endless source: his father who loves him very much. The adult has lost this confidence in someone bigger and better than he because in his mind he is the best and the brightest. See, the adult has practically orphaned himself. Thus, this "fatherless adult" in the workplace becomes wrapped up in his I-me-mine philosophy, raking everything in for himself, fearful that other grasping adults might beat him to the jackpot. While the "child" of whatever age—whether of voting, reproductive, menopausal, or near-retirement age—continues to respond to the Giver of Gifts with gratitude, obedience and generosity. The "child" doesn't join the mad rush for meat because his philosophy is—"All that I have comes from my Father who knows my needs and desires; if I do not get what I want, it's because my Father knows it won't be good for me." The "adult," for all his corporate savvy, can't have the poise of the "child," for he can't remember that all he'll take with him when he goes is the shirt on his back, and the glass-lidded box he'll lie in. (*E-mail the author at* teresa_de_manila @yahoo.com)

REFLECTIONS FOR THE WORKING SOUL

ILLUSTRATION BY ANTHONY MISTADES

Gospel: Mt. 18: 1-5, 10

"Amen, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven."

Work becomes play

By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB, DD

IN TODAY'S competitive world, business and work seem to become like a jungle where everyone outsmarts one another in order to survive. One tries to be a step or two ahead of the others, and works hard to get the most advantageous position. One who acts slow and is too simple—or naïve, like a child—will most likely end up collecting only the crumbs of what the world of business and work offer. Contrary to the exhortation of Jesus in today's Gospel to "become like children"—trustful and dependent on someone superior, friendly and ready to share with others, and possessing other childlike attitudes—the world aggressively exhorts people to become "smart adults," scheming and calculating, competitive and discriminating against others, and behaving selfishly and egotistically.

Jesus presents a possible, beautiful scenario of a workplace—one which reflects the "kingdom of heaven." He, who is God-man, shows us that our life here on earth, including our work, should already be the beginning of His kingdom. The workplace becomes "heaven" when meekness reigns in the heart of everyone. Everyone genuinely undemanding and humble of heart will love his work and the workplace and will show loving care and brotherly concern for his coworkers. When the workers become "small" like "children," they do not become overly worried, and work somehow becomes "play," fun and fully satisfying.

When we imitate Jesus who humbled himself and became one like us, we become like trusting "children" who would readily enjoy "playing" in the workplace. Then what would have been a jungle of voracious animals becomes a pleasing "playground." (*E-mail the author at* mfvg@skyinet.net)

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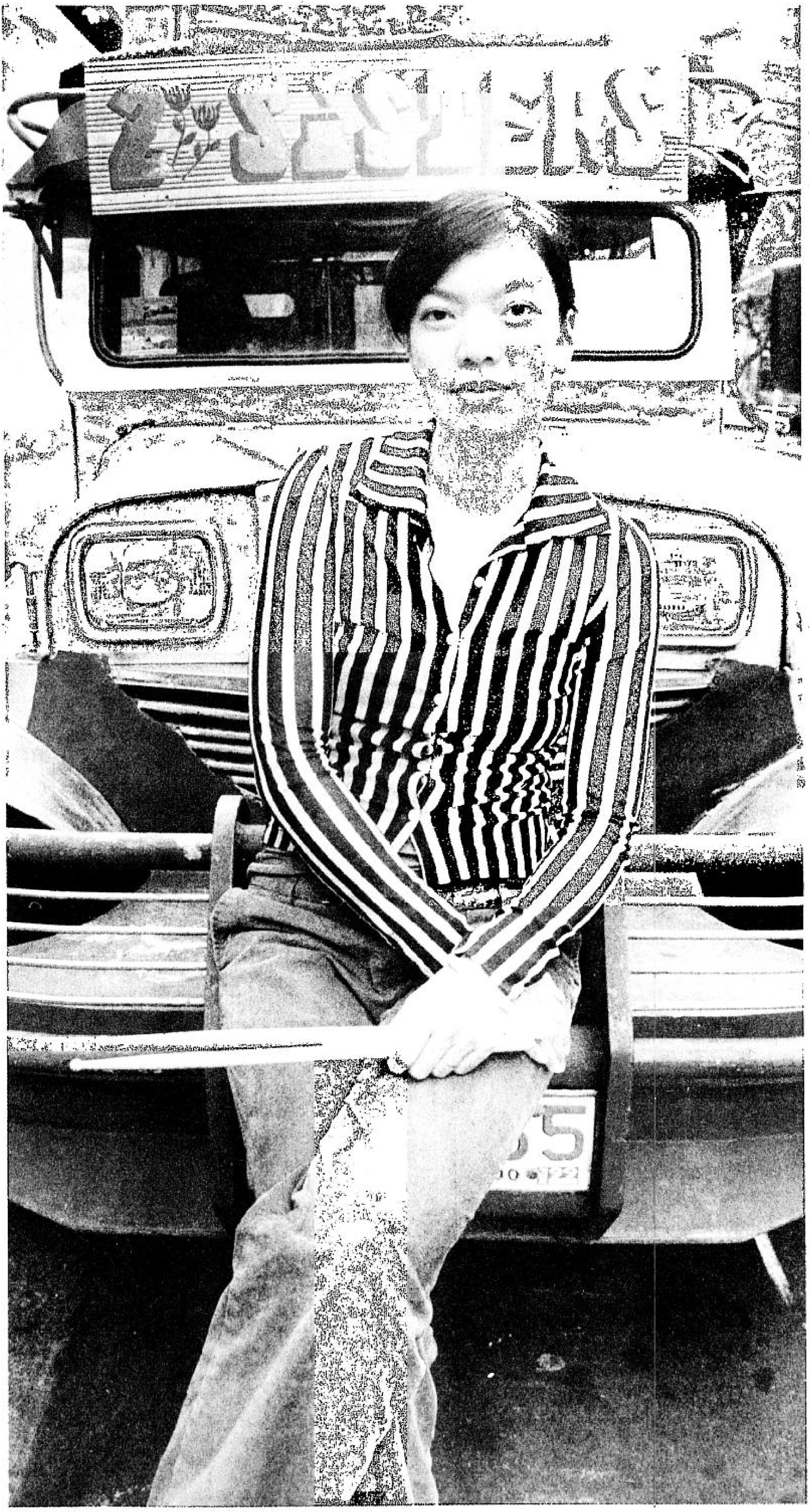
GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE
INQUIRER
magazine
January 16, 2005

Susie Ibarra

Following the Beat Back Home

She may be unknown in the land of her roots, but this acclaimed Fil-Am jazz drummer is playing with the world's best musicians. Now, she's returned to the Philippines to study kulintang *music in the hope of creating her very own sound*



By Eric S. Caruncho
Photograph by Raffy Lerma

WE **PINOYS** tend to get all puffed up about our so-called "world-class" musical talent.

To hear some people talk, you'd think our greatest achievement as a culture has been to corner the role of Kim in "Miss Saigon."

"American Idol" runner-up Jasmine Trias was given a heroine's welcome (and several lucrative endorsement deals) when she came home for a huge sold-out concert. (By that time, many Filipinos had already forgotten who won first place.)

The current press darling is pop idol Billy Crawford who, as entertainment hacks will never tire of telling you, actually cut his teeth as budding child star "Billy Joe Crawford" on Kuya Germs' "That's Entertainment."

This is all well and good, but we can do better. Our talent has never really been in question, but the jury is still out on the matter of taste.

Thankfully, there's Susie Ibarra.

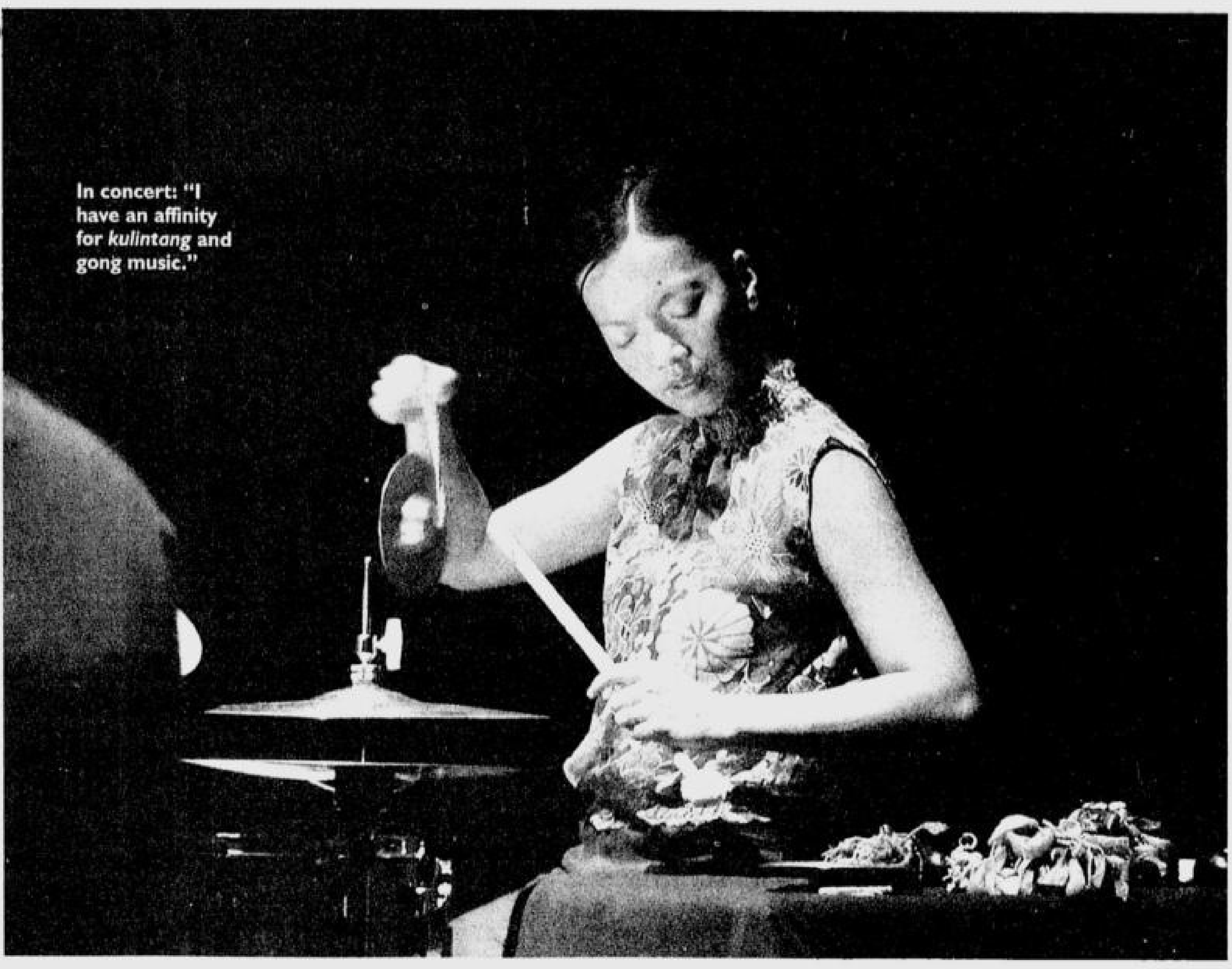
To page 2

The Happiest Loser of All
by Grace Saria , *p.4*

Kicking Back from Injury
by Lorenzo Z. Manguiat, *p.5*

Chasing the Light
by Claire Agbayani, *p.6*

Susie...from page 1


In concert: "I have an affinity for *kulintang* and gong music."

"Downbeat" magazine, the jazz bible, called the 34-year-old Filipino-American "one of the best and brightest young drummers to come out of New York (or anywhere) in the last few years." Quotes the 2004 edition of "The Penguin Guide to Jazz on CD": "Her roots would seem to be in the avant garde of the 1960s, in the work of Rashied Ali and Andrew Cyrille, but she already plays with a highly distinctive voice: a light pattering articulation which often disguises its punch, a musicianly ability to play or imply melody on the kit; and an unerring ear for pulses which go deeper than the conventional metre."

The last Filipino to make a splash in the world jazz scene was the late pianist Bobby "The Wild Man" Enriquez, who wowed audiences with his unorthodox style. As for our avant garde credentials, they ran out with Jose Garcia Villa.

In fact, Ibarra's resumé reads like a who's who of contemporary jazz and beyond: Apart from her own ensembles, she has played with reedman David S. Ware, guitarists Derek Bailey and Fred Frith, bassist William Parker, pianist Matthew Shipp, altoist John Zorn, trumpeter Wadada Leo Smith, experimental composer Pauline Oliveros, and even indie rock icons Yo La Tengo and Thurson Moore of Sonic Youth.

Okay, none of these are exactly household names to the average "MTB"-viewing Filipino. You can look in vain for their recordings in the "jazz" section of your local record store (no, they're not buried beneath the Michael Bublé and Rod Stewart "Great American Songbook Vol.18" CDs either). Suffice it to say that these musicians are in the upper stratosphere of contemporary improvisational music, and to share a stage with them is high praise indeed.

I have to confess that I hadn't heard of her either, until a friend, jazz fanatic Ricky Jalbuena, made me listen to William Parker's "The Peach Orchard," a fierce, free-jazz outing on which Ibarra's sinewy drumming underpins the proceedings.

Intricate compositions

Then he put on "Radiance" by the Susie Ibarra Trio, her debut recording as a leader, where she lays painterly splashes of percussion throughout her own intricately-constructed compositions.

Finally, he played the trio's latest album, "Folklorico" (on John Zorn's Tzadik label). On *"Anitos,"* the opening cut, one could hear the unmistakable echoes of Mindanao in the melodic patterns Ibarra plays on the wooden *kulintang*. The second cut was an extended suite called "Lakbay," subtitled "A day in the life of a Filipino immigrant worker." Inspired by Ricardo Alvarado's photographs of Filipino migrant workers in California in the 1940s and 1950s, it seemed to be a musical meditation on the Filipino diaspora, and by extension, Ibarra's own Filipino roots.

All we could say after the listening session was, "Wow!"

A few weeks later, we were sitting in a comfortable living room in suburban Makati with Susie Ibarra and her husband, Cuban percussionist and composer Roberto Rodriguez.

Don't ask me how it happened. Synchronicity, perhaps. Or simply good old Pinoy networking.

As it turned out, Ibarra was in Manila en route to Cotabato to document and study Maguindanaon *kulintang* music with the family of *kulintang* master and ethnomusicologist Danongan Kalanduyan. She had also been invited to the Shariff Kabunsuan, the annual celebration of Maguindanao art and culture. This was only her third time in the land of her parents' birth. The last time she was here was when she was still in her teens.

In person, Ibarra is tall and willowy, looks at least five years younger than her 34 years, and is extremely soft-spoken and self-effacing.

"If you ask me what kind of music she plays, I'd have to say she plays 'Susie Ibarra music,'" said Rodriguez who, apart from playing with Ibarra on their occasional projects together, has also played with a wide range of musicians from Gloria Estefan and the Miami Sound Machine to Marc Ribot y Los Cubanos Postizos, and leads his own performing and recording ensembles.

"Susie Ibarra music" is as good a description as any, since Ibarra's current projects go beyond what can comfortably fit under the label "jazz." She is in fact currently composing the music for an opera (about which, more later).

"I think free improvisation is the art form that brought me to play with a lot of musicians from both the traditional and contemporary worlds," she says. "I feel personally that free improvisation is one of the highest art forms—it's composition in a moment—but it's just not understood today. I think people don't know how to digest it or how to explain it. You can't put it in a box."

You can't put Ibarra in a box, either.

Born in Anaheim, California in 1970, Ibarra spent most of her formative years in Seabrook, Texas, near Houston. Both of her parents are doctors, graduates of the UP College of Medicine, who immigrated to the US in the 1950s.

The sense of being part of a minority was specially strong in Seabrook, where there were only a handful of Asian families. Ibarra remembers her father coming home one day from the clinic with a big smile on his face.

Father's gift

"'Guess what? I just operated on the Grand Dragon of the Ku Klux Klan!'" she recalls her father saying. "He was really pleased with that. 'Imagine that! He had to come to me to get operated on!'

"I get my musicality from my father," she says. "He plays piano by ear. He just has great rhythm. My appreciation and exposure I get from my mother. She was never a musician but she always loved music. I was always around music and art."

Ibarra took piano lessons as a child, and sang in the church choir. Occasionally, she would also hear rondalla music and Filipino tribal percussion from her family's record collection, but she mostly listened to "normal" music, like Michael Jackson.

"As far as influences go, I think everything influences us," she says. "I have an affinity for *kulintang* and gong music, and it's very natural. But definitely our childhood experiences of music influence us, and it can be very subtle and we don't realize it until much later."

When she was in high school, she saw a punk band perform, and was immediately attracted to the drum kit. Within weeks, she had bought her first set of drums and was bashing it with a hardcore punk rock band called Devil Donkey.

Ibarra went to Sarah Lawrence College in New York to study art. It was there that she experienced a musical epiphany, seeing the legendary Sun Ra Arkestra performing live at Sweet Basil. The experience kindled her passion for music and set her firmly on the jazz path. She studied with Arkestra drummer Buster Smith, and later Vernel Fournier who had played with the Ahmad Jamal Trio, and finally with Milford Graves, who had played with the volcanic free jazz saxophonist Albert Ayler. She also enrolled at the Mannes College of Music for formal music studies, and later at Goddard College where she earned her B.A.

Her passion to play led her to immerse herself in the New York downtown scene, the world capital of avant garde, experimental music, where she was soon playing and recording with the scene's aforementioned luminaries. Her fate was sealed when she sat in for drum great Joey Baron in John Zorn's Masada ensemble.

Deep roots

Admittedly, a lot of the early attention stemmed from the fact that she was young, female and Asian. Though not entirely unknown, female drummers in jazz have been few and far between, and thus far, none of them had been Filipino. But there was also no denying her chops. The "Village Voice," "Downbeat" and "The Wire" nominated her "best drummer" in their annual polls, and "Jazziz" magazine voted her "New Talent of the Year" in 1997. Before she turned 30, Ibarra had cemented her reputation with several classic recordings, notably a couple of albums with the David S. Ware Quartet.

She could have continued as an in-demand drummer, but Ibarra felt she had to do her own music, music that would express her Filipino roots as much as her jazz roots.

"I naturally gravitated toward Southeast Asian gong music," she says.

"Percussion and vocals are so deeply rooted in so many traditions that it's very natural to go back to that lineage. I think they're both important—tradition and the modern, contemporary influences of today."

When she first came to New York, Ibarra had played with a gamelan ensemble, and that naturally led her to the *kulintang*. She began to study traditional *kulintang* music with Danongan "Danny" Kalanduyan, a Maguindanao musician based in San Francisco, who has the distinction of receiving a National Heritage award from the Clinton administration for preserving his culture.

"I'm no expert in *kulintang*," she says. "But like jazz, you have pieces that are passed down through an oral tradition, and you improvise on them. Every player has their own unique style."

Among Ibarra's numerous current projects is Electric Kulintang, described as "*kulintang* trip-hop."

"Electric Kulintang deals with the essence of trance, and its relation to groove," she says. "It has beats, electronics and stuff, but also a lot of percussion and drum kit and vocals. It's more contemporary. I think in the sense that it has beats and grooves that it's accessible, but it's not obvious."

More recently, Ibarra has earned acclaim as a composer. She is currently working on a two-hour chamber opera called "Shangri La." With a libretto

To page 7

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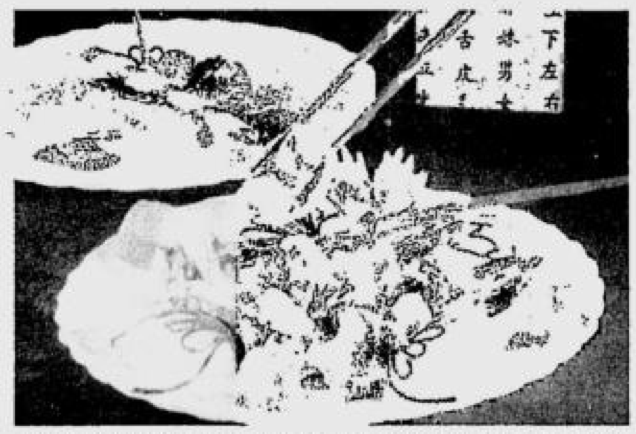
TASTING JAPANESE Savor Eastern Oriental cooking as Holiday Inn Galleria Manila's Raphael Café and Restaurant features all-time dish favorites in one buffet setting—the Tempura corner, hand-rolled Temaki and Okonomi Sushi Stations, Japanese salads, Suimono and other delicacies available for lunch and dinner until Jan. 22. For details, call 633-7111 loc. 7416. *For more of This Week, see page 7*

The Hours

fussing over the flowers from the greenhouse,
the Hours clapped their slender Hands
at Clarissa's party for Richie
by Virginia's lighthouse
the rich table's white cloth ends
billowed in the sea breeze calling,
"Come to the party, Rich—
world's light is beyond a window."

Chimed the Hours:
For Clarissa to keep such vitality,
She gives a party, a coming together
before the sweet parting,
the sea anemone's last dance
and the sea belching salt.

Richie stayed straddled a hi-rise window
and the Hours could only raise this high,
murky glasses at his fall—
light rising from the afternoon traffic,
from parties of endless introductions
and kisses on raised hands—bruised lips
from faux pearls on French gloves
"first rate, Mrs D."

Swung the Hours into action
smashing the glasses and racing 'round
the clock's disc-face frozen at five.
Seconds follow, slip around digits
the elegy's a deep, melancholic ding-dong.

Time's loosed sooner than Clarissa going gray
of Richie keeping faith with his art
and a finality many seek.
Oils keep Hour Hands gracious.

Christine F. Godinez-Ortega

The **Sunday Inquirer Magazine** accepts contributions for our regular poetry section. Interested contributors should send a printed copy of the poem (which may be in English or Filipino) together with a self-addressed stamped envelope to Ruel S. De Vera, poetry editor, Sunday Inquirer Magazine, Chino Roces (formerly Pasong Tamo) corner Mascardo and Yague Streets, Makati City 1263, or e-mail to <poetry_sim@inquirer.com.ph>

The Entrepreneurial New Wave @ SMART

Looking Back at the SMART Entrepreneurial Program '04

For the thousands of students so far who have attended SEP, theirs is a future reclaimed. Once facing a bleak set of job prospects upon graduation, they are now armed with the knowledge they need for successful entrepreneurship.

The SMART Entrepreneurial Program is the significant project of the year, with far reaching benefits down the line for the entire country. Its mission: to provide alternative solutions for the growing number of unemployed youth in the country. Entrepreneurship is encouraged as an economically viable activity that will generate jobs downstream. Even the President of the Philippines is aware that only through the rapid growth and success of small and medium enterprises can our country solve our economic dilemma. SMART understood this and chose to be a part of the solution. Through SEP it has been spreading the good news that there is an alternative to the lack of employment. Entrepreneurship is the answer, and SEP is the way.

To close 2004, Boy Martirez, Head of Personal Communications & Mobile Services of SMART, reflects on the success of the SMART Entrepreneurial Program (SEP) since it was launched in June. "From its conception, SEP has visited a number of schools around the country and inspired thousands of students bringing a message of hope to all who are in need of an alternative to employment. We will continue to tour the country and touch more young people, planting the seeds for tomorrow's entrepreneurs."

Manny on Entrepreneurship

"Businesses do transform societies. They do not only shape our physical and virtual worlds, but also create new needs, new hopes, and new dreams."

-- Manuel V. Pangilinan,
PLDT and SMART Chairman

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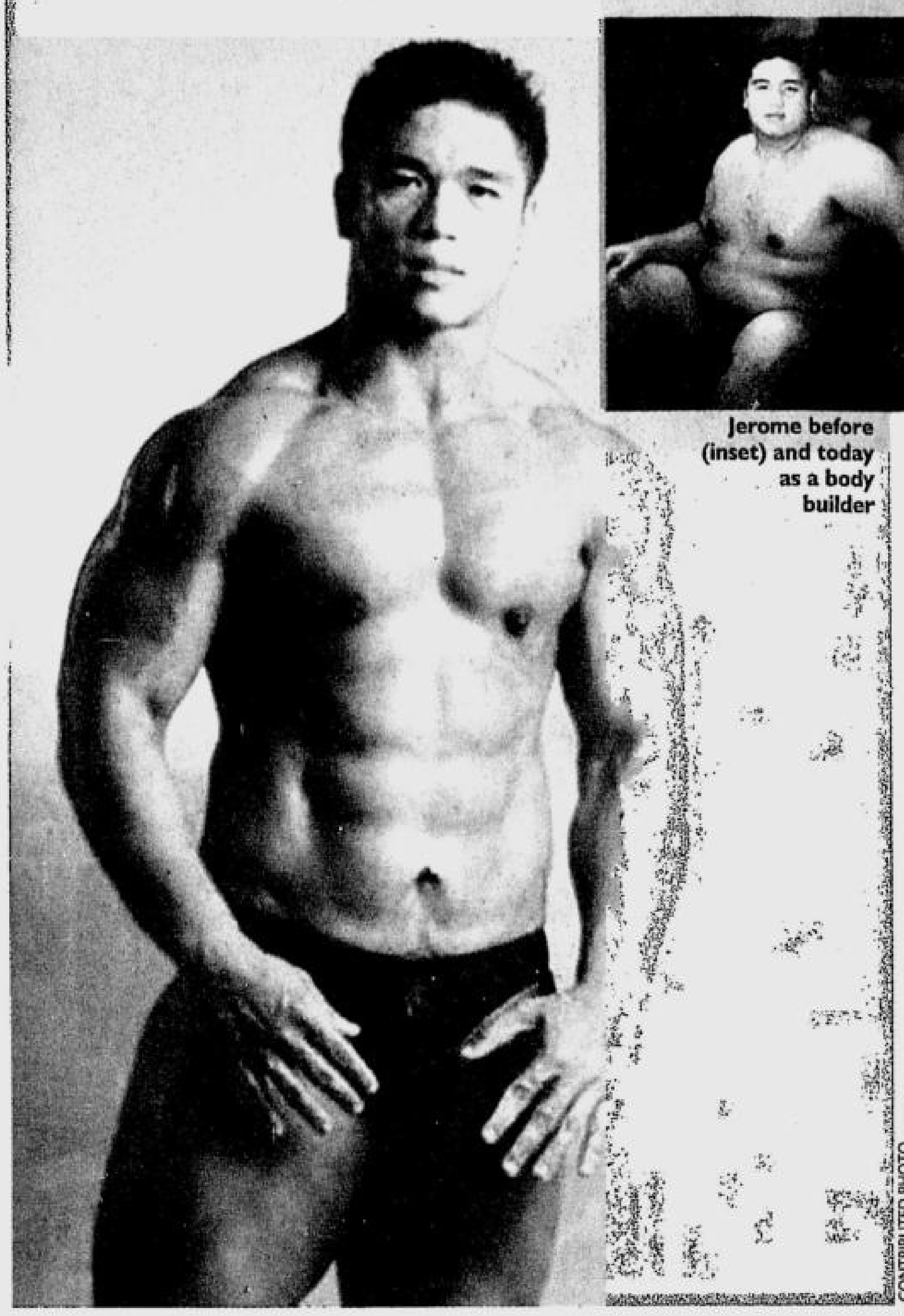
SMART
Simply Amazing!



Jerome before (inset) and today as a body builder

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Twists of Fate

By Grace Saria

The Happiest Loser of All

Despite a medical condition that made him balloon to 400 pounds, a determined Jerome Salvado harnessed diet and exercise to become a successful bodybuilder

TOWERING over most people at 6'2", with a massive frame filled with bulging muscles, 26-year-old Jerome Salvado never fails to draw attention wherever he goes. Proof of this was the huge crowd that cheered him in the 2004 Search for Mr. and Ms. Great Bodies and the 2004 Bikini Bodies competition. He awed viewers not only with his build but also with a flexibility astounding for a man his size.

One would expect Jerome to have foreign blood, considering his size and height, but surprisingly, he says he is pure Pinoy. In fact, he adds, his enormous size started as an abnormality. "I had a condition called gigantism, the oversecretion of the growth hormone. I developed a tumor in my pituitary gland and this was the effect. It's not something that you inherit from your parents."

By 12, Jerome was already 6'0" tall and weighed 250 pounds. He was a lovable giant, and doctors were baffled and amused then by his rare condition. It was only when Jerome's family consulted an endocrinologist that they found out that their son would continue to grow but would not live beyond 30 if his growth hormones were not tamed.

Good use

An operation suppressed the oversecretion of his growth hormone, but Jerome was told that he wouldn't be able to take the weight off easily. So at 14 and weighing 300 lbs., Jerome took on the challenge of losing weight and enrolled in a gym.

While he was at it, Jerome also put his size to good use and won awards in powerlifiting. But it was not the image that he wanted for himself, he points out.

Unable to lose significant poundage; Jerome shifted gears and became part of the Iglesia Ni Kristo ministry. It was similar to priesthood, he says, where men are restricted from drinking alcohol and the like. But he compensated in other ways. "I became overindulgent with studying," he says. "My only stress-reliever then was food. I gained a hundred pounds in two years and reached 400 pounds when I was 20 years old."

At this point, things became more uncomfortable as the excess weight started affecting Jerome's lifestyle. There were times when his heart would stop beating at night and he would experience frequent back pains. He was constantly drenched in sweat. Aside from physical discomfort, Jerome recounts the emotional blow he got whenever children made fun of him because of his size. "I wanted to make them stop but I couldn't get into a fight with them. Besides, a week after, I'd encounter the same incident," he recounts.

Massive burden

The burden of his massive weight on his health, studies and relationships with other people prompted Jerome to take a leave from school to focus on losing weight. He enrolled at the Premiere City Club in Quezon City and literally lived there, playing 50 badminton games from morning until night. Because of his determination, he managed to lose 80 pounds in a year and even won a championship in one of the badminton tournaments.

He also enrolled at Slimmers World, where he gradually lost more weight. But the biggest factor that pushed him to achieve the unachievable was the constant encouragement of his fitness trainers, who egged him to join the Great Bodies competition. Preparing for it trimmed off more pounds. "Starting from the elimination until the prejudging, I lost 50 pounds—the hardest 50 pounds to lose." From 275 lbs., he whittled down to 227 lbs. in three months.

Says Jerome: "The key to starting any endeavor is planning, especially in losing weight. Statistically, among 100 people who are on a diet, the success rate is only 5 percent. But it doesn't mean you're hopeless if you fail at the first try."

He wanted to prove something to those who were making fun of him, and surprisingly, he was able to do it. Recently, Jerome was awarded by Slimmers World International the title "Mr. Biodynamics" for successfully achieving his ideal body weight and serving as an inspiration to others who wish to do the same.

Doing wonders

Losing weight and joining the competition did wonders for Jerome's health, physique and self-confidence. Although naturally friendly, he says he can stand up straighter now and has even started meeting up with old friends. "I'm a lot more sociable now and feel more sure of myself especially when I meet new people," he says.

Next on the list of this "happy loser" is a balanced and healthy lifestyle that includes time for his body, his personal interests, his family and friends. Jerome still works out at the gym regularly and is constantly experimenting on how he could "incorporate healthy eating as a leisurely and enjoyable part of life."

When he isn't helping out in the family business, he enjoys badminton, playing the guitar and being with friends and supporters alike whose encouragement he credits for his successful slimming program. "*Kaya ko nagawa kasi sabi nila, 'kaya mo yan.*'" (I did it because they said I could.) Q

The Word

By Fr. Ruben J. Villote

Star Quest 2005

When we seek love, acceptance, understanding and forgiveness, we are like the wise men in search of the 'Star'

Epiphany Series in two parts (Part Two)

THE "Star of Bethlehem" which the wise men from the East were following was actually not the "Star" they were looking for.

The "star of Bethlehem" simply led them to the "little town of Bethlehem" where the Real Star was born.

Bethlehem means House of Bread, now theologically understood as the place where we gather to partake of the Bread—Word and Sacrament—for our nourishment and sustenance.

The beautiful truth is that this Bread is both the Body of Christ (Eucharist) and us (the Church). We are indeed Bread for one another.

That is also why when we seek love, acceptance, understanding and forgiveness, we are like the wise men in search of the "Star," and that Star is always no farther away than the next person.

However, although the Good News is about the Star being as near as the next person, it is also about the "other persons," the "other nations and cultures," "other faiths and religions different from our own," "other churches and spiritual traditions"—all appearing to us like "gentiles" and strangers.

But Paul, in his letter to the Ephesians (3:2-3, 5-6), said: "God's secret plan, unknown in past generations, was revealed to me: that the Gentiles now share the same inheritance as the Jews. They are also members of the same body; they share the same promise in Christ through the Gospel."

Jesus, in other words, is for all peoples. He is not the exclusive property of any tribe, nation or church. He belongs to me as much as He belongs to you. It is only our little power cliques, sects and "churches" that have invented dogma, canons, legalisms, and "guidelines" to separate us again from the Star and from one another.

It is the Holy Spirit, and He alone (not our human genius, not our power and vanities), that can create the unity we all want and need. Let us pray to the Holy Spirit for this gift.

* * *

When the songs of the angels are stilled,
when the stars in the sky are gone,
when the shepherds are back with their flocks,
and when the magi are back with their families,
the work of Christmas begins:
to welcome strangers on the way,
to heal the broken,
to feed the hungry,
to proclaim liberty to prisoners,
to bring down walls and rebuild bridges,
to bring peace, forgiveness and justice to all people,
to bring a smile to every face,
to make music in the heart.

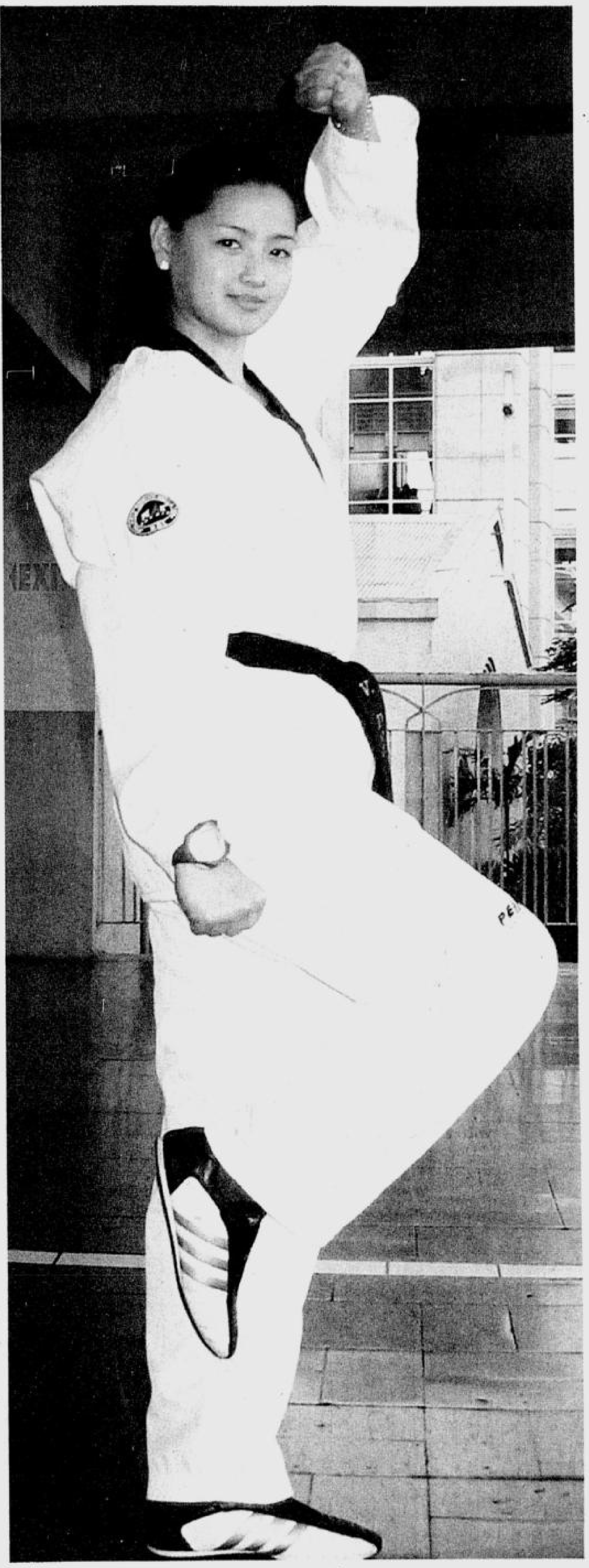
Till we meet again, faithful readers. Stay alive for the first leg of our journey to 2005. Let us continue our Star Quest, our journey of discovery, not in seeing new landscapes and new stars but in having new eyes. Remember, the star you seek might already be in your heart. Q

All in the Game

By Lorenzo Z. Manguiat

Kicking Back from Injury

Two-time taekwondo gold medalist Veronica Domingo is not letting a serious ligament injury stop her from taking another shot at making the national team



ROGER CARPIO

IT WAS supposed to be a routine move: Shift the left leg forward then move the right leg back before unleashing a powerful kick.

Yet that seemingly harmless step would prove to be a damaging one for taekwondo jin Veronica Domingo as she suddenly heard a loud pop and instantly fell to her side, clutching her right knee.

"I immediately started to cry," Domingo recalls in Filipino. "I cried not because it hurt but because I knew right away that the condition of my knee was really bad, and I wondered about my future."

It was the last sparring day of that practice session in May last year, and the Philippine team, including Domingo, was due to leave for the Asian Taekwondo Championships five days later.

But the two-time Southeast Asian Games (SEAG) gold medalist had to be left behind to face an uncertain future after suffering a tear in her right anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) during that fateful night.

"It was the first time that I got injured like this. I never even suffered a sprain before. All I had were minor injuries like bruises, pulled hamstrings and a black eye,". the 25-year-old reveals. "I played clean, unlike others who employed dirty tactics, so I asked, 'Why me?'"

Indeed, it was hard to accept the blow that had been dealt this pretty *chinita* who was at the peak of her athletic career.

Defending the crown

After her second consecutive gold medal at the 22nd SEAG in December 2003, Domingo was ready for bigger things. She resigned from her PAGCOR public relations job after four years to focus more on taekwondo.

Although she didn't get a chance to qualify and compete in the 2004 Athens Olympics, she was set to participate in the Asian Championship and eventually defend her flyweight crown on home soil during the 2005 SEA Games.

"I felt that I had just reached the second step and that the SEA Games gold medals were still not enough," she says. "I still want to compete and win in the world level," added the 2002 Asian Games bronze medalist.

Taekwondo wasn't actually Domingo's first serious sport. The 5'8" communications arts graduate used to play volleyball for Far Eastern University in the UAAP and was a member of the RP Youth Team, though she admits she wasn't really an outstanding player.

"In the UAAP, the only time I got to play was when we were winning by a large margin," she recalls. "And I only got to be part of the first six on the National Team when the usual starter got sick. The only award I got during international tournaments was the Most Popular Player, like what (Brazilian volleyball player) Leila Barros got. Obviously, they liked my face, but not the way I played," she jokes.

Domingo discovered her current sport by accident when she noticed something peculiar about the members of the FEU Women's Taekwondo Team back in 1997, when the volleyball squad was practicing in the court next to the jins.

"I noticed that most of the female members of the taekwondo team were fair-skinned and looked very delicate, so I said to myself: 'If they can do it, then I can definitely do it, too!'" this Barbie Xu lookalike recounts.

To her surprise, the taekwondo coach was actually eyeing her as a possible recruit. Domingo first joined tae kwon do practices as a form of cross-training to improve her footwork, then eventually became part of the team.

Invited back

It was tough initially, as she would attend volleyball practice from 6 to 9 a.m., join the taekwondo team work out from 9 to 11 a.m., then attend class from 12 noon onwards. Often, Domingo would be so exhausted that she would fall asleep during class. Finally, she decided to drop volleyball and focused on taekwondo.

She made rapid progress from then on, earning a black belt after barely two years, and was invited to be part of the National Team in 1999.

But being nervous before big matches affected her performance adversely. Although she would reach the required weight limit of 63 kilograms in her division during the required weigh-ins, Domingo could barely eat and sleep days before her match, causing her weight to drop to as low as 57 kilograms. Nervousness also made her feel drained during actual bouts, causing her to lose some of them.

After she eventually overcame her fear and anxiety, the ACL injury happened.

Now, the Cavite native is undergoing regular therapy to get back to competitive form by March. She is determined to compete despite family pressure for her to retire following her injury.

Her recovery after surgery was slow, and it didn't help that two other athletes who suffered the same injury at about the same time were recovering more quickly.

Low point

"That was a low point in my life," Domingo says, adding that it helped that "people were very supportive."

Her leg is a lot better now, and she can do some jogging and lift weights, she says. Hopefuly, she'll be in playing form by end of the month.

Apart from her daily rehab sessions at the Philippine Center for Sports Medicine during weekdays, Domingo is busy coaching the FEU Taekwondo team in the evenings.

"I eventually want to have my own gym that will be well-known in the country," she reveals.

Recently, she has began appearing on TV as a courtside reporter for the Shakey's V-League. "Chino (Trinidad) approached me when I was watching one of the games and asked if I wanted to be a reporter."

But getting back to competition remains her top priority. "After the SEA Games, I still want a shot at the 2006 Asian Games and the 2008 Olympics," she says.

Domingo may have realized how vulnerable her body can be when she got injured, but fortunately, her spirit has survived unscathed.

Elegy for Randy Diaz

Imagine the chuckles
stifled between sentences
before the proper gasp of dismay.
How gracelessly any of us
could go, with an unplanned
plunge into a watershed.
See the *santol* left unplucked
on the neighbors' tree,
as his friend clambered down
to run for help. Beyond rescue,
what could he have prayed for,
going down the drain at nineteen?
To be famous by an accident,
to be a household name
invoked by *yayas* to haunt
petulant wards? Still missing,
said TV reporters, as if it was just
a matter of being discovered.
Consider the mothers, buying
bottles of water, knowing frogmen
were diving for drowned remains;
no amount of boiling or crossing
could make that tap water
holy enough. Anti-sacramental
he became, as if his finger could
easily emerge from the faucet
to tickle toothbrushes. Salvation
would come one week later,
longer than it takes most
resurrections. That pressure
could blow any body to pieces,
police mentioned. An explanation
for portions of his person
found jammed in a pipeline
barangays away. When parents
flounder for reasons, children know
the words clogged in their throats
have something to do with luck:
the intricacies of what befall us
or what we fall into. What's kept
hanging is the fruit of oblivion.
Knowing what it takes to be
remembered, we fly, leaving
so little time for grieving.

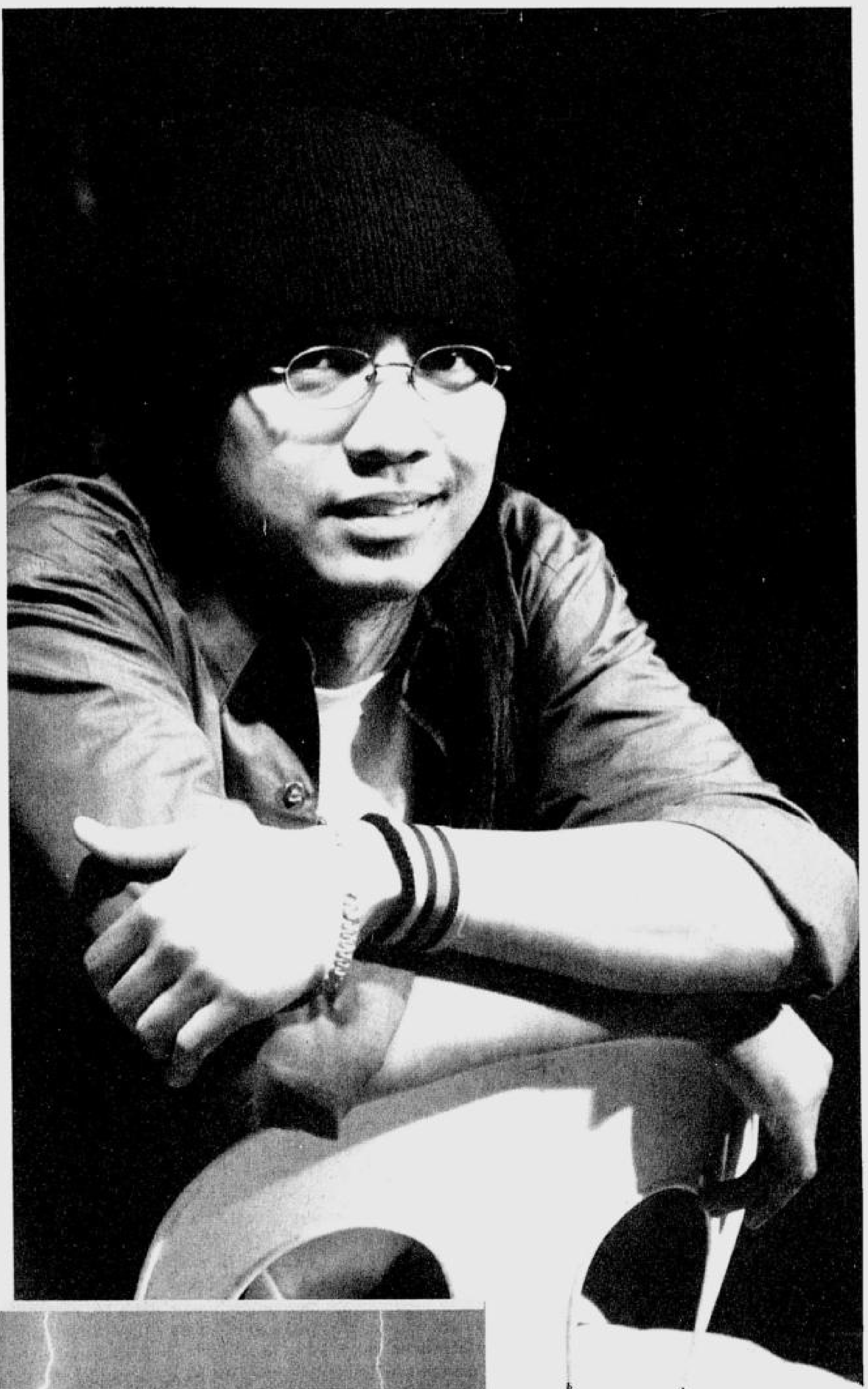
Naya S. Valdellon

Artwatch

By Claire Agbayani

Chasing the Light

Photographer, painter and perennial volunteer A.G. Saño goes to great lengths to capture split-second natural phenomena on film—and it's all for a good cause



ROMY HOMILLADA

"HE'S CRAZY," a magazine editor remarked upon seeing his lightning photographs. To quote the words of a popular song by MYMP, he's "a little bit crazy... a little bit of a fool," or so people perceive him to be.

At summertime, around three months every year, landscape architect Guerrero Saño, better known as A.G., drops everything and hies off to the pristine Babuyan Islands (the northernmost tip of the Philippine Islands, even farther than Aparri) to help the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) monitor the migration of humpback whales from the Northern Hemisphere (Alaska, Russia and Japan) to the Philippines. He has been doing this with other photographer-friends for some five years now.

A.G. looks forward to the day when he can literally abandon his career to become a fisherman. He finds the feel of sand on his bare feet simply irresistible. As an architect, he deals with nature all the time, and part of his job is "the stewardship and conservation of natural, constructed and human resources."

As a volunteer photographer, A.G. gets to mingle with the Supreme Being's creatures at such close range it simply affirms the presence of God. And God is indeed a very strong force in his life.

Nurturing

Every Saturday, A.G. volunteers for the He Cares Foundation Streetchildren Caring Center in Project 6, Quezon City, which nurtures street children as well as their parents. Pretty much a fourth of his life is devoted to volunteerism, a pattern which began immediately after high school, when he went to Polomolok, South Cotabato to do social work for a riverside community for a month.

"At the age of 18, I wanted to be a millionaire-architect," the 29-year-old recalls. Just like other promising young people, A.G. wanted a comfortable life: "*Lupa, bahay, sasakyan* (land, house, car)."

He actually came close to earning his first million at 26. As a matter of fact, he has traveled to all continents, save for Antarctica and South America.

However, at some point in his life, "I came to realize that these things didn't matter after all and I could share my life with other people."

One who stays long enough in the Saño household would understand why A.G. turned out this way. A.G. was born to parents who were activists during Martial Law. His parents were imprisoned in the early '70s when his mother Nympha was pregnant with his eldest brother Stef Jr.

Stef Jr., who spent some 12 years in the US to study, recently "repatriated" to the Philippines. He is now a senior manager for an Italian insurance company. Yeb works as a project development officer at WWF, and the youngest, Leo Leandro, a graphic artist/designer and independent filmmaker, plays keyboards for reggae band Coffee Break Island.

Passionate

A greater part of A.G.'s childhood in the late '70s and early '80s was spent hobnobbing with a coterie of activists and people passionate about various causes. The Mendiola massacre had just happened when his social studies teacher asked him and his classmates to do a diorama on any event in history. What he did was a scaled down version of the massacre, complete with people on the pavement and bloodstains. His teacher decided to give him a 99 for the project. And he was just in Grade 4.

As early as age 10, A.G. knew what he wanted to do with his life. His mom had enrolled him in French classes at Alliance Francaise one summer. He was doing pretty well, until the schedule conflicted with his art classes under artist and premiere art mentor Fernando Sena. In the end, art won out over French. At 14, he was assisting Sena in teaching art. At 16, he was conducting his own workshop for the Kulyawan Youth Club at the Corinthian Gardens.

One of the passions the Saños share is photography. While taking his masters in Tropical Landscape Architecture at UP Diliman, A.G. cross-enrolled at the College of Mass Communication for a class in photography. It was here that he rekindled ties with Gari Buenavista, a former classmate from Claret. It was Buenavista who introduced him to Richard de Guzman (a.k.a. Bahaghari) and re-introduced him to his childhood playmate Erik Liongoren. A.G. eventually assisted all three photographers and Ivan Sarenas for their shoots for glossy magazines.

A.G. is into photography because "I want to preserve memories, especially the ones that happen in split seconds, and there is a minimal chance of seeing them happen again."

Fascination

A.G.'s fascination for lightning started when he slept on the Philcoa overpass one stormy night and was awakened by spectacular flashes of lightning. He has since made it a point to patiently wait for lightning bolts to appear whenever he is in his condominium.

At 29, A.G. has no plans of settling down, at least not yet. For now, he's just enjoying himself, devoted entirely to his passions as photographer, painter and perennial volunteer. Fortunately, he doesn't yearn for kids. He considers all the beneficiaries of He Cares Foundation as his own kids, so much so that he has endeavored to donate practically everything he will earn from an upcoming exhibit to the foundation.

Actually, he only thought of doing the exhibit as a means to raise funds for the children. It is his hope that both friends and strangers alike will support He Cares through this exhibit.

"*Sigaw ng Liwanag*" is ongoing at the bridge way of the 4th Floor of Megamall (fronting Dads) until January 19. It will showcase 25 of A.G.'s photographs of urban lights, natural light and lightning.

Before he leaves, A.G. points to the photograph of a streak of lightning which hit the water tank of their condominium, missing him by a mere two meters. He says matter-of-factly, "This will be the most expensive." Q

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

On site: Shooting in the Babuyan Islands for WWF. Above, one of A.G.'s lightning photographs

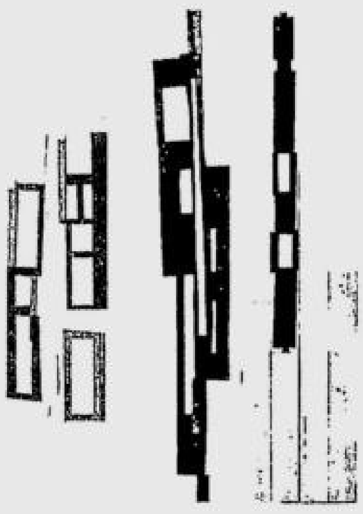
This Week

Art

Landscape architect **A.G. Saño** holds his debut photo exhibit at the 4th Floor bridgeway of SM Megamall until Jan. 19 showcasing poster-size photographs of spectacular lightning displays and the lights of the metropolis.

Romeo Lee's mixture of the irreverent, the macabre and the comic is at the core of his latest solo exhibit, **The Leeing**, at Finale Art Gallery, The Artwalk, 4/L, SM Megamall A until Jan. 25.

No Borders, an exhibit of new timber constructions and drawings in oil pastel by Tony Twigg, Jan. 17-31 at Galleria Duemila, 4/L, The Artwalk, SM Megamall A. For details, call 634-3261.



"2 Posts" by Tony Twigg, on exhibit at Galleria Duemila

Music

An hour of easy listening awaits **Concert at the Park** viewers today at 5 p.m. with **Songs from the Heart**, featuring Lester Demetillo (guitar and voice) and Cynthia Ubaldo (voice) at the Rizal Park Open-Air Auditorium. Admission is free.

Noted soprano Irma Ponce Enrile-Potenciano will give a voice recital, **Irma...** ***Larawan ng Isang Maestra***, at the Philamlife Auditorium on Jan. 18, 7:30 p.m. Potenciano will be joined by the faculty members of the UST Conservatory of Music. For tickets, call 731-4022.

Schedule of **performances at the '70s Bistro**: Cooky Chua & Ria Villena-Osorio (Jan. 17); Affinity (Jan. 18); Pido (Jan. 19, 26); Asin (Jan. 20); The Jerks (Jan. 21, 28); Spy (Jan. 22); Parokya ni Edgar (Jan. 24); Pinikpikan (Jan. 29); and Color It Red (Jan. 31). Shows start at 9 p.m. For inquiries, call 434-3597 or visit www.70sbistro.com.

Viva Concerts presents two big concerts this Valentine season: **Ladies of the '80s and Motown's Greatest Hits in Concert**. Ladies of the '80s showcases three of that decade's biggest stars: Sheena Easton, Taylor Dayne and Tiffany. The concert will be held on Feb. 11 and 12, 8 p.m. at the Araneta Coliseum and on Feb. 14 at the Waterfront Hotel, Lahug Cebu. Motown's Greatest Hits in Concert runs on Feb. 13 and 14 at the Araneta Coliseum featuring the sounds of the era's biggest acts—The Supremes, The Temptations and The Miracles-with some of the original members of the groups.

Cinema

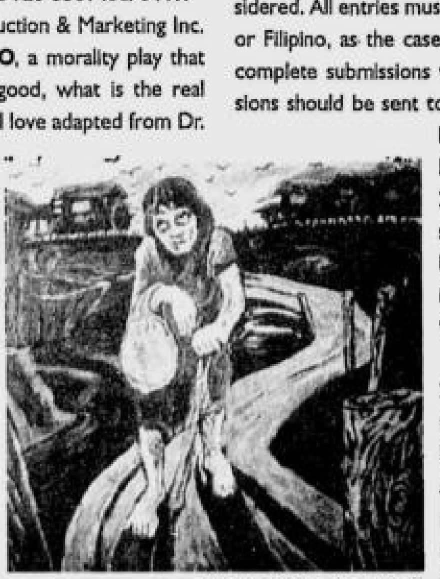
UP Film Institute's schedule of screenings: "The Yin-Yang Master" (Jan. 17, 5 p.m.); "My Wife Is a Gangster" (Jan. 18, 5 p.m.); "Bayani" (Jan. 19, 2 and 5 p.m.); "House of Flying Daggers" (Jan. 20, 5 p.m.); "In the Mood for Love" (Jan. 21, 5 p.m.); "A Good Lawyer's Wife" (Jan. 24, 5 p.m.); "The Sin" (Jan. 25, 5 p.m.); "Nang-nak" (Jan. 26, 2 p.m.); "The Fruit Is Swelling" (Jan. 26, 5 p.m.); "Zhou Yu's Train" (Jan. 27, 5 p.m.); "2046" (Jan. 28, 5 p.m.); "Three" (Jan. 31, 5 p.m.). For details, call 926-3640 or 926-2722 (telefax).

Onstage

The greatest love story of all time gets a hilarious make over. Romeo and Juliet didn't die. They got married and after 30 years or so, now live in a crazy marital war. **Oh Romeo** (by Ephraim Kishon) runs at the REP's Globe Theatre at Onstage in Greenbelt 1 until Jan. 30. Directed by veteran actress Joy Virata, this Repertory Philippines production topbills Pinky Amador, Michael Williams and Miguel Faustmann. Evening performances at 8 p.m. every Friday and Saturday with 3:30 p.m. matinees every Saturday and Sunday. For reservations, call at 887-0710.

UP Playwrights' Theatre will be staging **Komedi**, a sequence of three one-act plays featuring the monologue *"Ang Maikling Kasaysayan ng Punerarya sa Pilipinas,"* and two Palanca winning pieces by Nick Pichay—*"Pangulo Naming Mahal"* and "Psychedelia Apocalypsis." Komedi will be directed by Tony Mabesa and will run from Jan. 26 to Feb. 6 at the Teatro Hermogenes Ylagan, Bulwagang Rizal, College of Arts and Letters, UP Diliman. For details, call Dulaang UP at 926-1349 and 920-5301 loc. 6441.

Tanghalan at Obra, Production & Marketing Inc. presents ***Ang Buhay ni* TAO**, a morality play that shows values like what is good, what is the real essence of Godly and mortal love adapted from Dr. Isagani Cruz's "TAO." Playdates are Jan. 16 (10 a.m. and 2 p.m.) at St. James Academy Auditorium, Malabon City; Jan. 22, 23, 29 and 30 (10 a.m. and 2 p.m.), Feb. 12, 13, 19, 20, 26 and 27 (10 a.m. and 2 p.m.) at San Sebastian College Auditorium, Recto Manila. For inquiries, call 324-4784 or 0921-5035140.



From "The Leeing" by Romeo Lee, on exhibit at Finale Art Gallery

Food

Enjoy the freshness of strawberries at the Manila Pavilion Hotel's two promotions, **Strawberries & Champagne** at the Rotisserie until Jan. 22 and **Very Strawberry** at the Patisserie until Jan. 30. Choose from Fresh Strawberries, Strawberry Meringue, Strawberry Mille Feuille, Crepes Fraise and Strawberry Delight. For inquiries, call 526-1212 ext. 2505 and 2326.

Atbp

The Kapisanan ng May K sa Pilipinas, an umbrella organization of cancer support groups in the country based at the East Avenue Medical Center Tumor Clinic, celebrates the **Cancer Survivors' Day** today, 11 a.m. at Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church in Project 4, Quezon City. It coincides with an ecumenical Mass to be officiated by Fr. Robert Reyes. Featured singer is soprano Joscephine Gomez.

Learn how meditation and music can improve your health and bring peace of mind through the **Meditation and Music for a Better You Seminar.** The free seminar will be held this Sunday, 2-5 p.m. at Room 101 University Hotel, UP Diliman. For details, call 417-0355.

Alliance Francaise de Manille (209 Nicanor Garcia St., Bel-Air II, Makati City) is offering several **arts and crafts workshops** to be facilitated by William Gaudinez. Each class will run for eight sessions. Courses offered are: Terracotta Sculpture and Ceramics (Tuesday/Thursday, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.); Folk Art and Mask Making (Tuesday/Thursday, 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.); Pastillas and Diorama (Tuesday/Thursday, 6:15 to 8:15 p.m.), and Basic Drawing, Acrylic Painting and Watercolor (Saturday, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.) For details, call 895-7585 and 895-7441.

The Jesuit Priests and Brothers will be holding a **vocation seminar** for male college students and young professionals on Jan. 23 at the Conference Room-Penthouse of Makati Citadel Inn at 5007 P. Burgos St., Makati City, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Registration is free. Those interested may call 426-6101 or text 0927-6492119 or 0927-2184567 for details.

Build a solid foundation on the art and craft of photography through **Photoworks: Class 14 seminar** to be conducted by NYFA and NYIP graduate Leo Castillo. There will be six sessions every Wednesday and Monday starting Jan. 19 from 7 to 10 p.m. at DPI Photography Center, Jose Escriva Ave, Ortigas Center. Class fee is P3,500. Limited slots available. For inquiries, contact 0917-8985362.

In connection with the ongoing exhibit "Unfolding Manila," the **Lopez Memorial Museum** will hold a **lecture series** with urban planner and advocate Paolo Alcazaren speaking on "Streets of Manila and Urban Sprawl" on Jan. 22, from 2-4 p.m. Fee is P100 per person. The exhibit "Unfolding Manila" runs until Jan. 25 at the ground floor, Benpres Building, Exchange Road corner Meralco Avenue, Pasig City. For inquiries, call 631-2417.

The First **Philippine Food Cart Trade Expo** will be held from Jan. 28-30 at the Philippine Trade Training Center. The business trade show will showcase an array of food cart products, ingredients, equipment and fixtures, as well as exhibitors comprising of franchises, packaging, signages, internet services, graphic arts, cart designers and makers, food magazines, tracking systems and others. There will also be a series of seminars on How to Begin a Profitable Business with Food Carts. For details, call 897-4635 and 789-8937.

Get training in speech, written communications, body movements, and event/project organization and management at De **La Salle-College of Saint Benilde**. Its **School of Design and Arts** will offer certificate programs in theatrical arts in April. The workshop courses will be in Basic Acting, Directing 1 and Scriptwriting 1. For details, contact Cindy Amador or Nitz Tubis at 526-7441 loc. 123.

Likhaan: The UP Institute of Creative Writing has extended the deadline for submission of entries to the 44th UP National Writers Workshop to Jan. 31, 6 p.m. The workshop has been scheduled from March 27 to April 9 at the UP Baguio. Twenty fellowships will be at stake: 15 fellows in Filipino and English, while the other five for writers in Iluko, Bikol, Waray, Sugbuanon, Hiligaynon and Kiniray-a, depending on merit. The grants cover board, lodging and stipend. The textual requirements are: six poems, two short stories or two one-act plays. Mixed genres/experimental pieces will also be considered. All entries must be in one language (English or Filipino, as the case may be). Combined or incomplete submissions will be disqualified. Submissions should be sent to: Director V.E. Carmelo D. Nadera Jr., Likhaan: The UP Institute of Creative Writing, 2/F Bulwagang Rizal, University of the Philippines, 1101 Diliman, Quezon City. For inquiries, call 922-1830 or 981-8500 loc. 2117.

Photoworld Manila 2005 accepts online registration to its seminars to be held from Feb. 4 to 7 at the Asian Institute of Management in Makati. Featured speakers will be Eddie Tapp who will talk on digital technology, Tony Corbell on commercial photography, Hadi Doucette on wedding and portraits, Charlie Lim on Trends in Advertising Photography, Matt Battison on graphic design and Tilak Hettige on spirituality of photography. From Feb. 3 to 8, photography tools and equipment of different models will be on display at the Activity Center of Glorietta. For inquiries, call 813-7420 and 843-5341 or visit www.photoworldmanila.com.

May Kasal sa **Forbes Park, A Wedding Fair** will be held on Feb. 5 and 6 at Santuario de San Antonio Center, Forbes Park, Makati City. Religious and marriage advocacy groups are on hand for counseling during the event. For details, call Philtrade Exhibits at 825-0804 or 825-3482.

Art Informal, an artist-run center for hands-on artistic learning, launches its new season of art workshops for children and adults. Classes offered are: Children's workshops in Drawing and Acrylic Painting (Saturdays starting Feb. 5); Beginners Oil Painting (Saturdays and Sundays/Tuesdays and Thursdays); Advanced Oil Painting Techniques (Saturdays starting Feb. 12); Mixed Media (Tuesdays and Thursdays) Sculpture--Portrait Bust with a Woodcarving workshop (Saturdays and Sundays), and Power to Create (Sundays starting Feb. 9). Art Informal is located at 277 Connecticut St., East Greenhills, Mandaluyong. For details, call 725-8518.

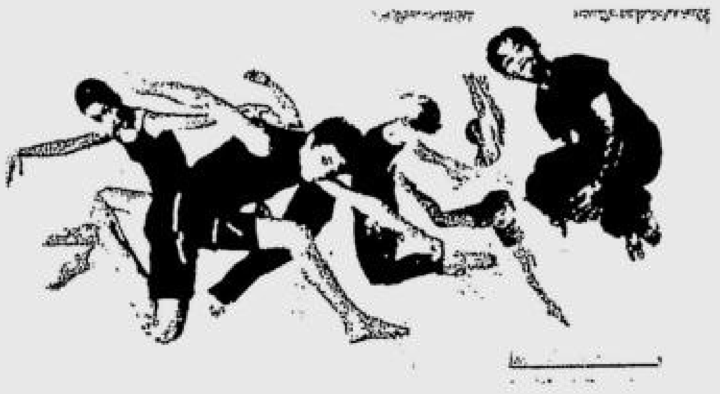
The Federation of Philippine Photographers Foundation is conducting a series of **basic and advanced photography courses**. The second of its series of workshops starts on Feb. 13 for the basic course and Feb. 12 for the advanced course to be held at Fort Santiago in Intramuros, Manila. Lecturers will be Vic Sison, Ador Pamintuan, Prof. Cecilia Angeles, Ed Santiago, Tilak Hettige and Tony Raval. For registration, call 843-5341 and 813-7420.

Strawberry Nougat Parfait with Honey Lemon Sauce at the Manila Pavilion Hotel

X-manila

For the 12th edition of its annual ***Pelikula at Lipunan***, the National Commission for Culture and the Arts will reminisce Cebu's lost cinema through film screenings of a handful of Cebuano films that still remain. The festival will also organize photo exhibits, panel discussions, workshops and publication of monographs recalling the history of this cinema of the south. The festival will open on Jan. 26 with a recognition night that will honor veteran artists of the Cebuano cinema. The event will kick off a regional tour that will start in SM Cebu and will proceed to Iloilo City and finally go to SM Megamall in Mandaluyong City. The five-day event will screen "lost" Cebuano films that include *"Badlis sa Kinabuhi," "Matud Nila," "Ikaduhang Bathala," Ikasakit sa Kinabuhi"* and the celebrated comedy shot in super-8 film *"Ang Manok ni San Pedro."*

The Sunday Inquirer Magazine welcomes listings of events in and outside Metro Manila. Please send announcements at least two weeks in advance, and include contact numbers for inquiries on schedules

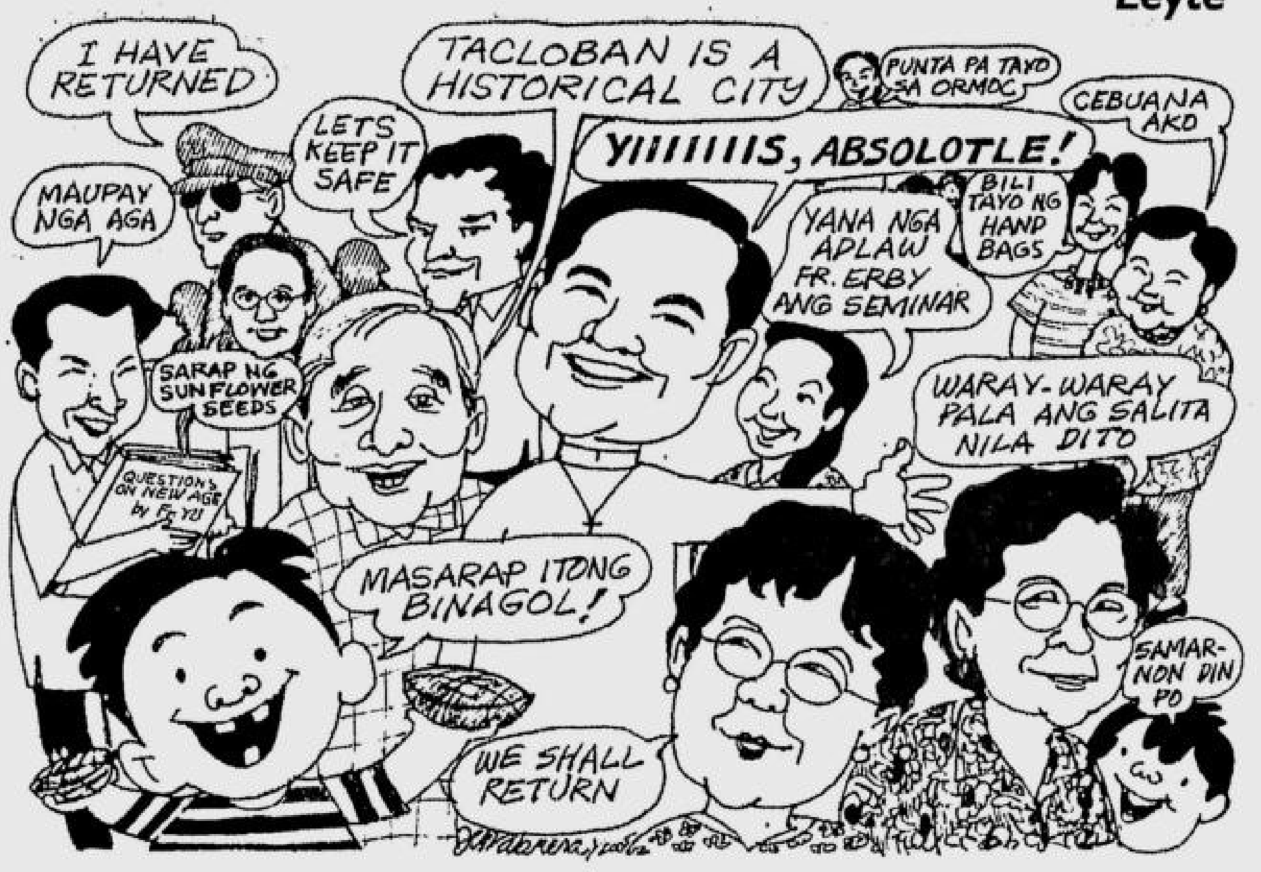


***"Komedi,"* staged by the UP Playwrights' Theater at the Teatro Hermogenes Ylagan**

Pinoy Nga!

By Jess Abrera

Leyte


I HAVE RETURNED
MAUPAY NGA AGA
LETS KEEP IT SAFE
TACLOBAN IS A HISTORICAL CITY
PUNTA PA TAYO SA ORMOC
CEBUANA AKO
YIIIIIIS, ABSOLOTLE!
BILI TAYO NG HAND BAGS
YANA NGA APLAW FR. ERBY ANG SEMINAR
SARAP NG SUNFLOWER SEEDS
QUESTIONS ON NEW AGE by Fr. YU
WARAY-WARAY PALA ANG SALITA NILA DITO
MASARAP ITONG BINAGOL!
SAMAR-NON DIN PO
WE SHALL RETURN
JAPABRERA

Susie ...from page 2

written by Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Yusef Komunyakaa, "Shangri La" is set in Thailand and deals with the problem of sex trafficking and AIDS. Although it debuted last year, Ibarra is composing a new score and an overture to be premiered this April in New York. It will feature no less than three percussionists, as well as a traditional Thai singer. Jazz to opera might seem a leap, but actually it isn't.

"My mom was a big opera fan, so I was exposed to it as a child," she recalls. "I used to go see beautiful productions in Houston."

Also in the works is another opera with Komunyakaa, this time about the black American soldiers who defected to Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo's army during the Philippine-American War. Ibarra has also been asked to compose pieces for the Kronos Quartet, as well as film scores.

In spite of all the acclaim and all the musical projects she has to juggle, Ibarra admits that being a musician—specially one working in a field that the rest of the world considers "fringe," i.e. too rarefied for the "pop" audience—is still a struggle.

"It's not an easy life," she says. "It's not like the world out there is so supportive of art. Do you know the phrase 'pay your dues'? When I was in college I worked as a florist, and I did club dates. Roberto has done a lot of session work. We're lucky because we're both drummers and musicians so we understand each other. We know what the other is going through. I also have a very supportive family. We're really fortunate."

The couple has been together for two years, having met in the New York downtown music scene. (Ibarra was previously married to Israeli saxophonist Asif Tsahar, with whom she also recorded on a number of collaborative works.)

Though the couple is busy touring and recording their own musical projects, they occasionally find time to work on a project together. One such project is called Mundo Ninos, which Ibarra describes as tapping the creative potential of children by teaching them how to count rhythm. Although the couple have no children of their own, as yet, music for children is one of their shared interests. (In fact, Ibarra hopes to compose a piece for the Loboc Children's Choir of Bohol, which she had a chance to see during her visit to the island.)

"I think in a sense we fit in in New York, because there are so many artists, and the individuality is so strong," she continues. "But at the same time, I often crave more community, which is so strong and natural here in the Philippines."

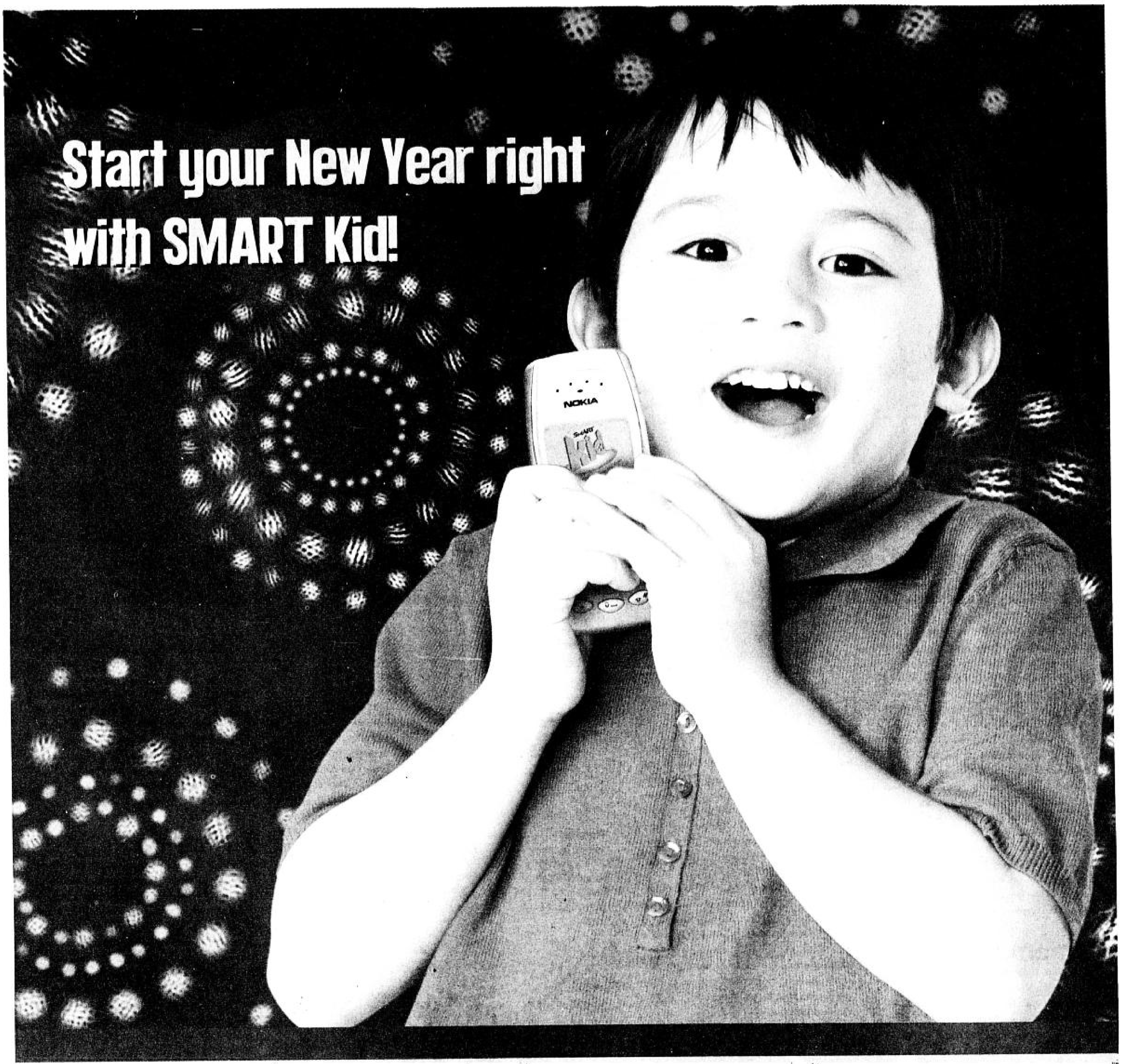
Some days later, Ibarra had a chance to experience some of that community when she traveled to Cotabato to meet Danny Kalanduyan's family and to experience traditional Maguindanao music in its natural setting. On returning to Manila, she was also able to meet and compare notes with Joey Ayala, Grace Nono and Bob Aves—in their own way, fellow fringe artists struggling to make their own voices heard.

She also touched base with Emily Abrera, Nes Jardin and Nanding Josef of the Cultural Center of the Philippines, and checked out the Philippine Philharmonic conducted by Eugene Castillo.

Lately, she says, she has been contacted by various Filipino groups in the US and Europe, specially second- and third-generation Filipino-Americans curious about their roots as well as their own distinct identity as hyphenated Americans.

Hopefully, Ibarra might develop an audience here as well. As of now, none of her recordings are available locally, but Filipino listeners ready for something a little more adventurous should check her out.

"I play for all kinds of audiences and I really believe that music is for everybody," says Ibarra. "Art can be experienced by everybody, for different purposes and different reasons."



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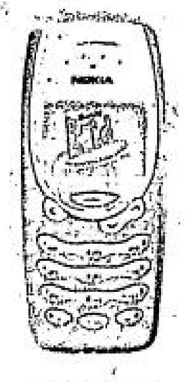
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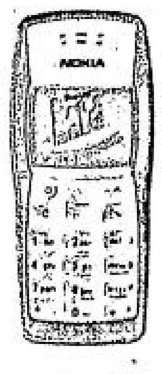
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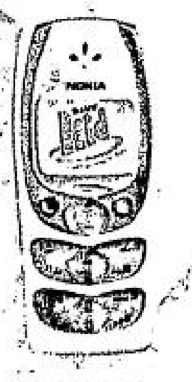
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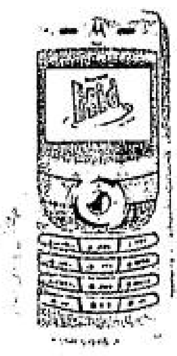
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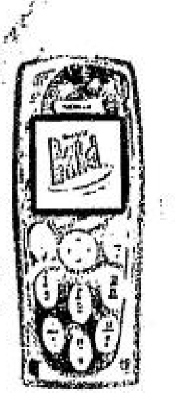
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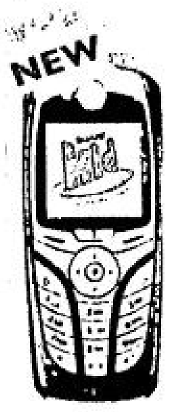

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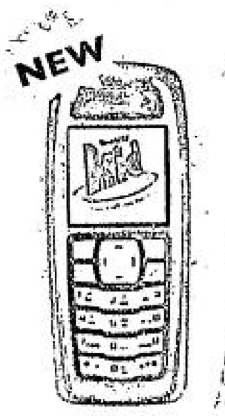

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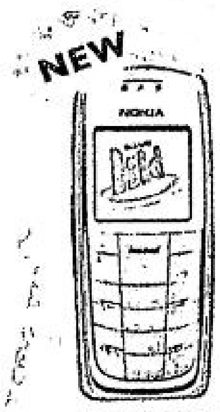

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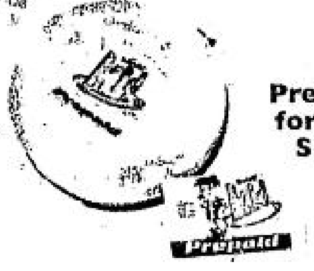

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